

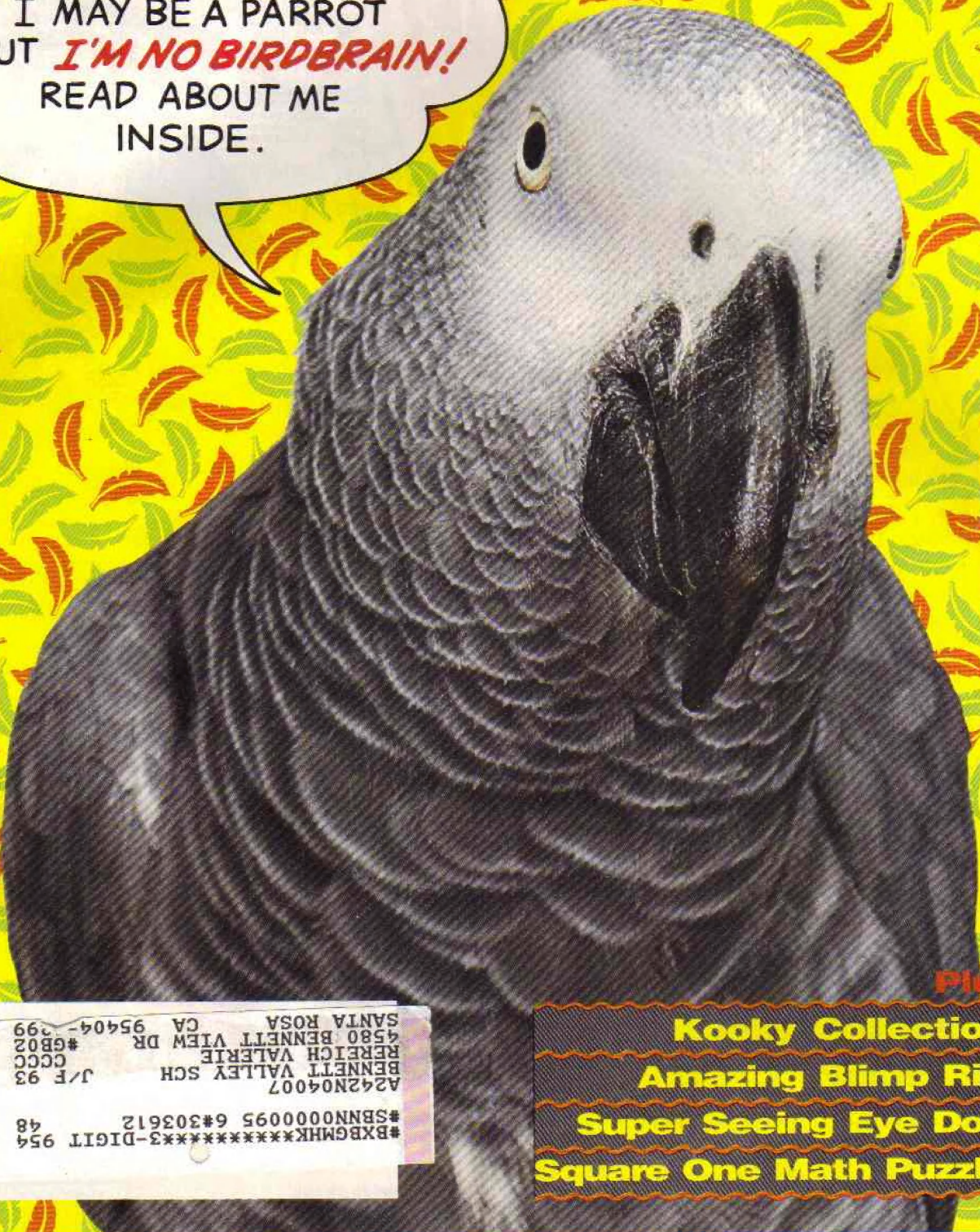
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MARCH 1992

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Meet Alex the parrot, a very special bird.
Photo © Michael Goldman.

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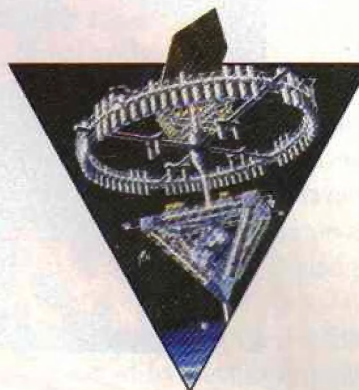
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Rest in Peace

If you think you're as busy as a bee—well, think again. Scientists are now discovering that most creatures (yes, even bees, beavers and ants) spend most of their time doing nothing at all!

Animals do spend time looking for food, mates or shelter. But more often than not, they're either snoozing, sprawling or just walking around in circles.

"If you watch a creature over time, you can't help but think that it's not doing much!" exclaims Dr. Joan Herbers. She is a zoologist at the University of Vermont.

But Herbers says animals are usually lazy for a good reason. Some need time to digest their food. Others take breaks to save

energy for when they really need it. (Hummingbirds actually spend 80 percent of their day motionless!)

So who's really the workhorse out there? Take a guess. Compared to other critters, humans spend up to four times as many hours working!



ILLUSTRATION BY MARY POWER

TNT NEWS BLASTS

No Measle-y Problem

Many kids in the U.S. need a shot in the arm—when it comes to protecting themselves from measles. Especially now that new measles cases have been popping up across the U.S.

Measles is spread by a virus that causes a rash of red spots, sore throat, fever, runny nose and a cold. For most people, having measles isn't so bad. But sometimes the virus can cause other diseases, or even death.



PHOTO BY RICHARD HUTCHINGS

Nine years ago, health officials thought measles would be wiped out entirely. In 1983, there were only 1,497 measles cases in the U.S. But just last year, 27,000 kids were struck by the virus!

Why are so many getting the measles now? Lots of kids have never had *any* measles shots because many parents thought measles wasn't a problem anymore. But hopefully, more will get their shots now that trouble has been...spotted.

Four-Star Hotel?

"Hi, folks. Having a great time orbiting above Earth. Just finished playing zero-gravity basketball. You should have seen me slam dunk! Taking the next shuttle home."

Believe it or not, you might be sending a postcard like that home one day. With the help of robots, a Japanese firm is hoping to have a

space-based resort ready by the year 2020.

Star-struck tourists would rocket to the resort in an 80-seat space airplane. Once there, vacationers could play sports in zero-gravity or choose to sleep in "weightless" rooms. Just think what a great health spa it would make—there'd be no problem losing weight!



PHOTO: SHIMIZU



PHOTO COURTESY MARTIN W. SCHWARTZ

To the Lighthouse

What has a glow-in-the-dark lagoon, mangroves, a dry forest, rocky and sandy beaches, beds of turtle grass and coral reefs? The answer: "El Faro," Puerto Rico's new nature reserve.

El Faro (Spanish for lighthouse) is named for a 110-year-old lighthouse on the reserve. The area was set aside because it's home to endangered species, such as the manatee and the sea turtle.

The 316 acres will also protect some of the island's last mangroves. More than three-quarters of Puerto Rico's mangrove forests have already been destroyed by development.

In 1989, Hurricane Hugo ripped apart the trees in El Faro. But the mangroves are starting to grow back. And thanks to a newly built boardwalk winding through the area, you can watch this "wild" event.

Sign of the Times

A new invention is breaking the sound barrier—between people, that is. Engineer James Kramer's electronic glove is giving a voice to people who haven't been able to talk.

Deaf people often use finger-spelling to communicate. Kramer's "talking glove" translates fingerspelling language into speech.



ILLUSTRATION BY MARTIN LEMELMAN

The glove actually talks out loud!

Here's how it works: The glove wearer spells out each word with his or her fingers. A microcomputer in the glove then changes into sounds the letters that are finger spelled. The sounds come out of a speaker worn around the deaf person's neck.

The hearing person can talk back by typing an answer on a small keyboard, about the size of a pocket calculator. The typewritten words flash on a wristwatch worn by the deaf person.

The glove also helps deaf-blind people "talk." The wristwatch screen prints out words in Braille.

(Braille is an alphabet of raised dots that blind people read with their fingertips.) Talk about having the right touch!

Story suggested by Lindsey Aaker, Hawley, MO



So What's New?

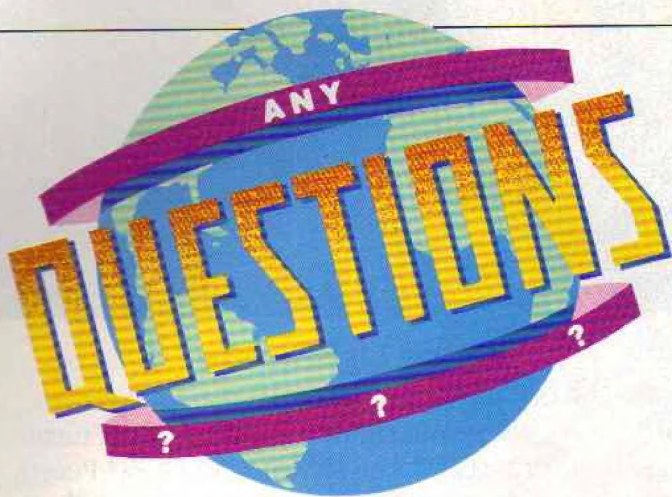
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By Christina Wilsdon

**H
O
W**

DO OCEAN WAVES FORM?

The waves you see crashing on the shore are caused by the wind. Storms and earthquakes make waves, too.

When a wave moves through water, the water doesn't really travel anywhere. The water moves up and down in the wave, just as a gentle wave might pick you up and put you down in the same place. Only the wave itself moves forward.

You can see this idea in action when you and a friend hold the ends of a jump rope and shake it up and down. The waves travel through the rope. But the rope stays put—it doesn't travel toward you.

That's how the ocean waves behave until they reach land. Then things break down. The waves start "scraping" along the bottom.

This slows the bottom of the waves, but not the top—if the wave is high. So, the top spills over, and the wave "breaks."

That's what surfers love.

What should you do when you see an ocean wave? Wave back, of course!

Question sent by Lindsey Clark, Orlando, FL.



**W
H
Y**

DOES PAPER YELLOW WHEN IT GETS OLD?

To see why paper turns yellow, let's go back to its "roots."

Paper is made out of plant fiber. The fibers are the stiff walls of plant cells. Paper can be made from many kinds of plants.

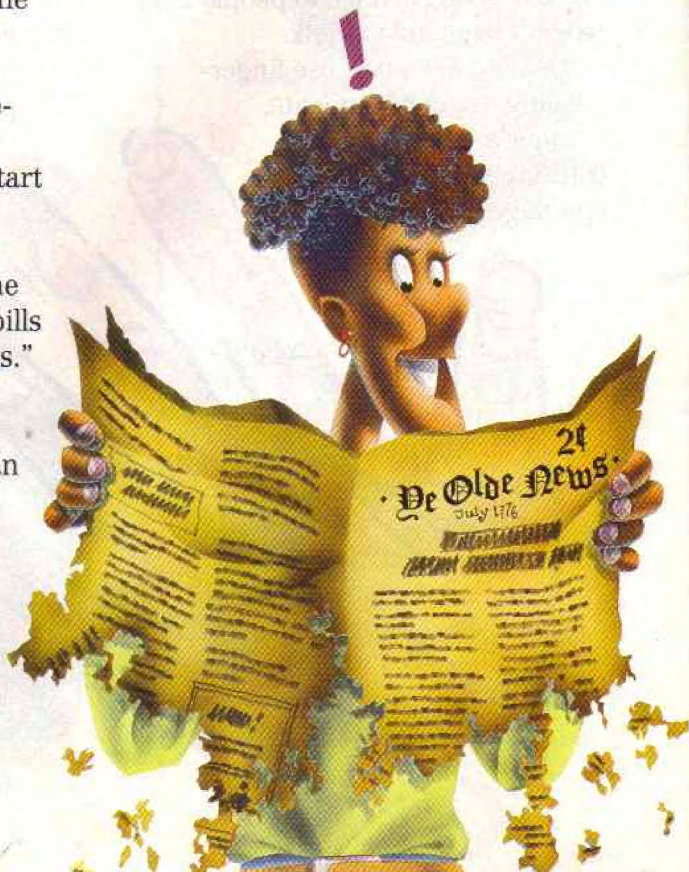
Most paper today is made from wood. Trees are chopped into bits. These wood chips are mixed with acidic chemicals that dissolve a tough material in the wood, called lignin. Lignin holds the wood fibers together. The lignin turns yellow when it is treated with these chemicals.

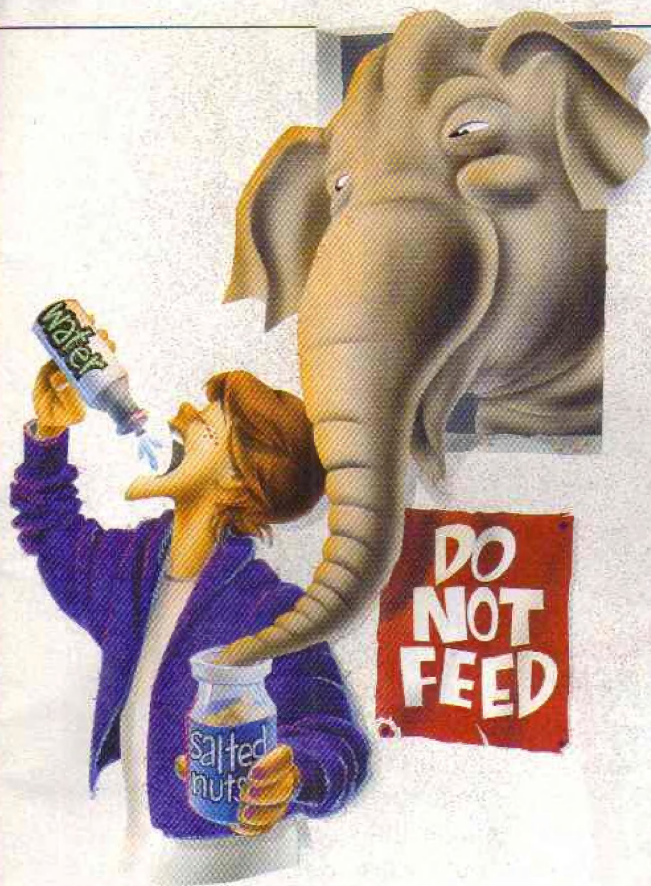
After the lignin dissolves, the fibers separate. This wood mash is bleached white and flattened into sheets.

Over time, air and light react with the paper. This reaction causes the lignin to become visible.

Cheap paper, like newspaper, turns yellow very quickly because it still has lots of lignin left in it. More expensive paper has less lignin so it doesn't "dye" as quickly.

Question sent in by Hannah Zimmer, Jacksonville, FL.





**W
H
Y**

DO WE GET SO THIRSTY WHEN WE EAT SALTY THINGS?

Water forms almost 70 percent of your body. It's in your cells. It surrounds your cells. This water also contains salt. Your body needs both salt and water to function. If you went without either for a very long time, the cells could be harmed.

Let's say you've eaten a bag of salty potato chips. Nerves in your internal organs sense that your salt level is getting high. They send a signal to a part of the brain called the hypothalamus (say: *HI-po-THAL-ah-muss*). The message? "Halt the salt! Send water!"

Drinking water cuts down, or dilutes, the salt in your body fluids—just as adding more water to very sweet juice dilutes the sugar in your drink.

Your hypothalamus then sends a message to you by making you feel thirsty—and off you go to get a glass of water.

Question sent in by Jamey Graham.

**W
H
Y**

ARE HUMMINGBIRDS ATTRACTED TO THE COLOR RED?

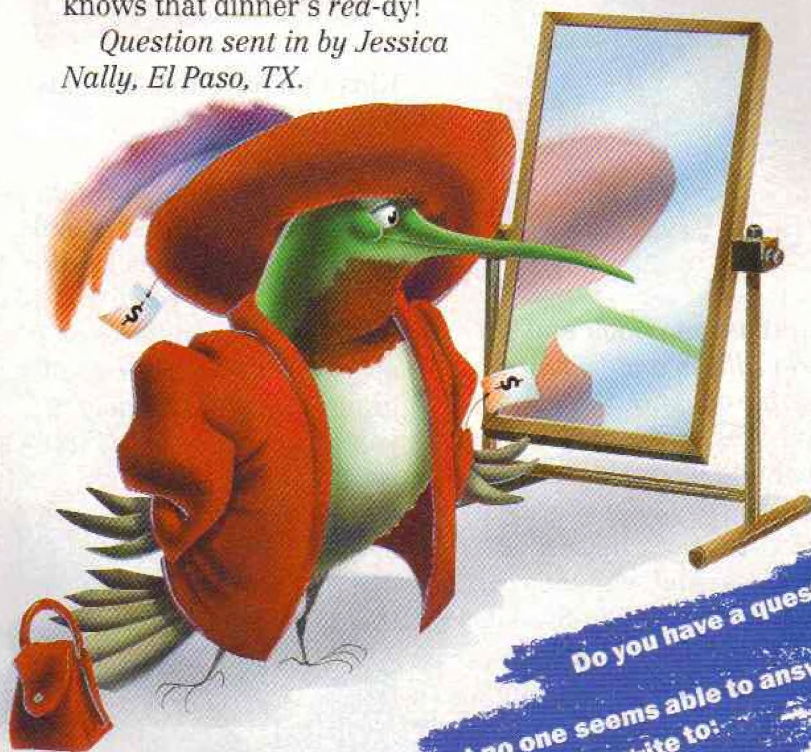
Red is a real eye-opener for a hummingbird. Hummers will dive at a red ribbon tied to a branch. But the hummingbird isn't the only one that sees red—many birds do.

For a long time, scientists thought that birds could see every color except blue and violet. Now we know that birds see colors about as well as people do—but that blue and violet look very dull to many kinds of birds.

These birds often have red, orange and yellow oil droplets inside their eyes. Scientists aren't exactly sure what the droplets do. But when a bird has many droplets, it is usually very sensitive to red. Birds without any red droplets, such as parakeets, seem to see both blue and red just fine.

Flowers that depend on birds to spread their pollen are often red. Red fruit attracts birds, too. When a hummingbird sees this color, it knows that dinner's *red-dy!*

Question sent in by Jessica Nally, El Paso, TX.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY VALERIE MARSELLA

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that no one seems able to answer?
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REVIEWS



BOOKS

Astronomy Activity Book

by *Dennis Schatz*

Simon and Schuster, \$5.95

Learn astronomy the fun way: Just do it! Here's a book that teaches you all the basics through neat activities. Predict moon phases. Make a pocket sun clock. Model an eclipse. Make a star finder. It's guaranteed out-of-this-world fun!

—*Jennette McIvor*



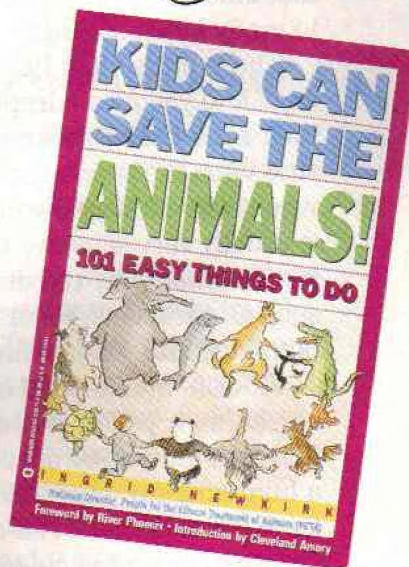
The Stethoscope Book and Kit

by *Linda Allison and Tom Ferguson, M.D.*

Addison-Wesley, \$12.95

Lub dub! Lub dub! What's that? It's the sound of your heart at work. Your body makes lots of weird noises. And with the *real* stethoscope included in this kit, you can listen in—not only to your heart beating, but also to your jaws crunching and your knuckles popping! What do these sounds mean? This kit will give you the inside story.

—*Robert Moll*



Kids Can Save the Animals!

by *Ingrid Newkirk*

Warner Books, \$6.99

Save the whales! Save the dolphins! Save the seals! Sounds great, but what can a kid do? A lot! In this book, you'll find 101 ways to make a difference. It's also filled with addresses of groups that you can help. If you're an animal lover, you'll love reading this!

—*R.M.*



SOFTWARE

Wordtris

for *IBM* and *Macintosh* computers

Spectrum Holobyte, \$44.95

Here's a challenging word game that you'll be able to start playing right away, but you'll never, NEVER be able to finish! Letters tumble down from the top of the screen and you must arrange them into words. The longer the word, the more points you'll score. But hurry! The better you play, the faster things fall.

—*Russell Ginns*



Bush Buck Global Treasure Hunter

for *IBM* computers

PC Globe, Inc., \$39.95

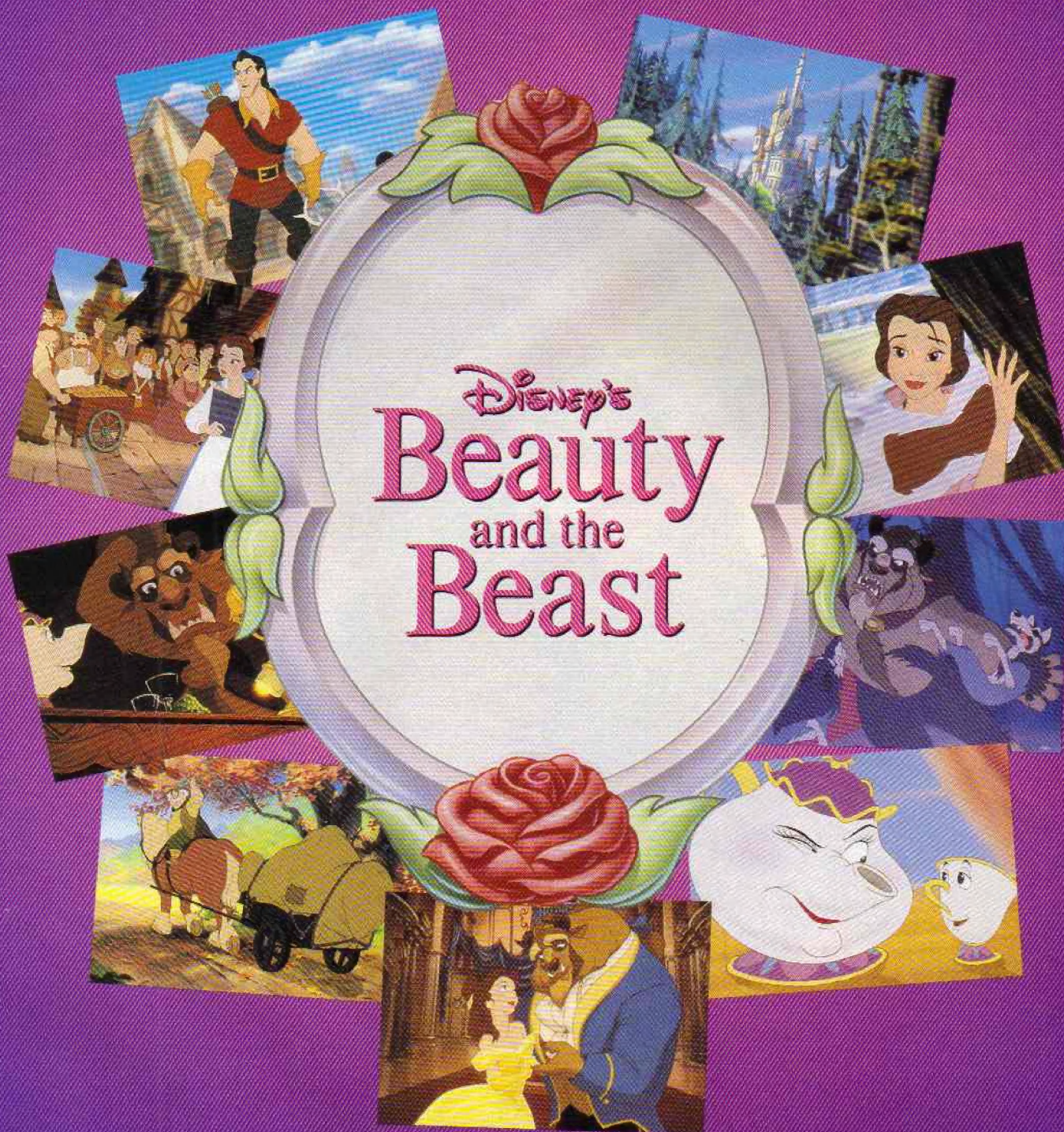
Where would you go to find some jodhpurs? How could you get a pocketful of dobra? When you play this scavenger hunt game, you'll travel across the globe, collecting objects from different countries and cultures. Meanwhile, the evil organization PICKLE is right behind you, stealing your valuable prizes.

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—*R.G.*

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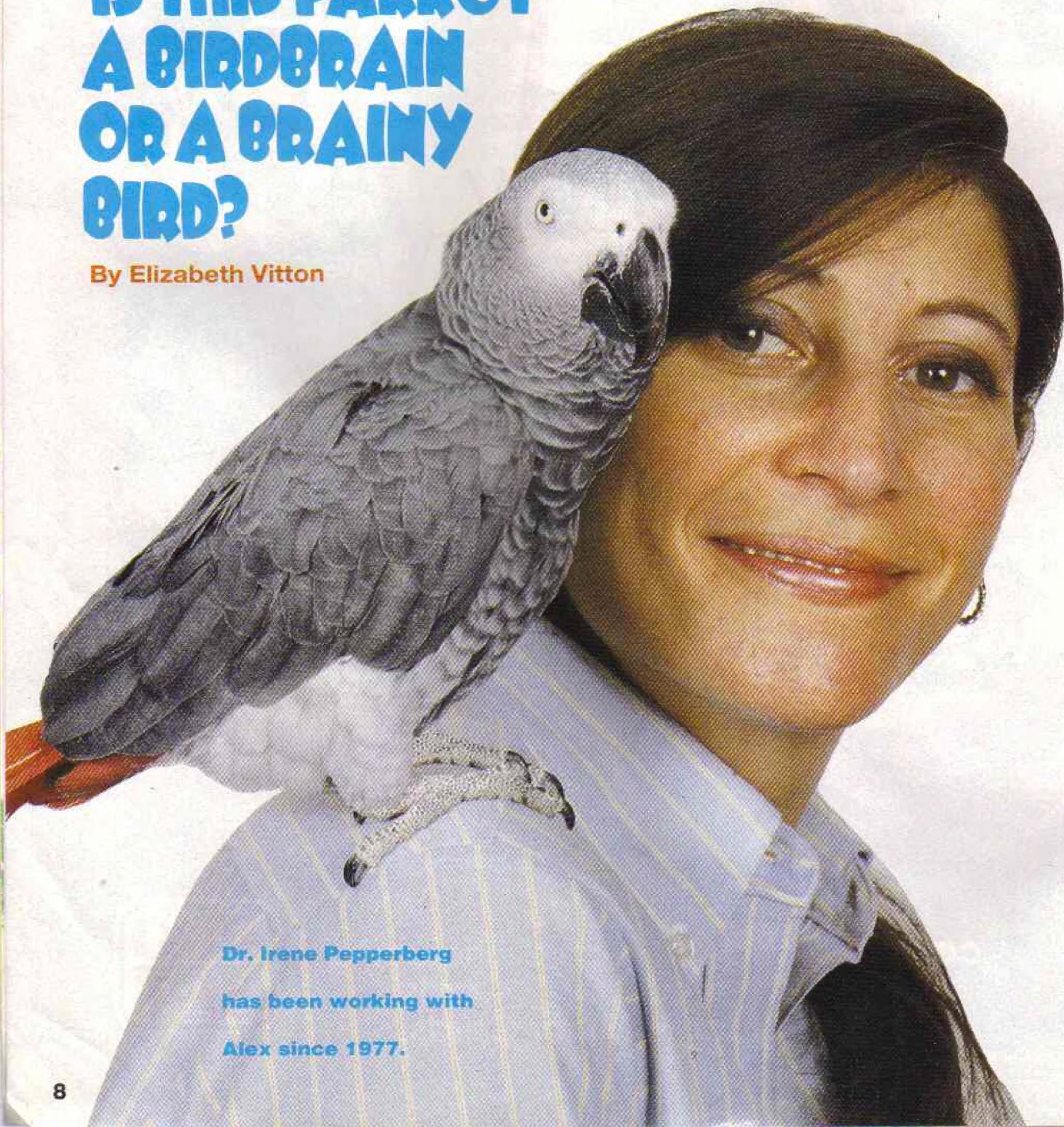


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SMART ALEX!

**IS THIS PARROT
A BIRDBRAIN
OR A BRAINY
BIRD?**

By Elizabeth Vitton



Dr. Irene Pepperberg
has been working with
Alex since 1977.



▲ Alex knows the letters K, T, S, N and I. If he learns Z, he'll be able to "spell" ziti, his favorite food!

▼ Alex can identify the shape, color or name of an object about eight times out of 10.

Alex, how many?" A researcher holds up two objects: a large green plastic key and a small purple metal key. Alex shifts his feet nervously while staring at the keys. He pauses and then answers: "Two." "Okay, Alex. Which is bigger?" After a long pause, Alex chirps out, "Green key." So far, so good.

Now for the tough test. The researcher shows Alex a tray of objects and asks, "Which is red?" Alex looks at a yellow key, a piece of red wood, a piece of blue leather, a purple toy truck, a green box and orange paper. "Wood," he answers.

Not bad for a 15-year-old...parrot. And that's exactly what Alex is. Alex may look duller than the average parrot—at least colorwise. (He's an African grey.) But he is probably the best-educated parrot in the world.

Brainy Bird

Since 1977, Dr. Irene Pepperberg has been teaching Alex to communicate in English. She has been working with Alex to find out more about parrot intelligence. And what she has discovered is that parrots are very smart—maybe as smart as chimpanzees and dolphins! 🐦



PHOTOGRAPH BY GOLDMANN



Pepperberg and her assistants at the University of Arizona have put Alex through hundreds of tests. And Alex is definitely making the grade: He is able to correctly identify the shape, color or name of an object nearly 80 percent of the time.

Pepperberg says this means that Alex not only understands the question itself, but is able to think about the information to come up with an answer. "It's not chance," she told CONTACT. "Alex is answering questions."

Is Alex *really* answering questions or is he just memorizing responses? Pepperberg says the parrot has to make too many decisions to come up with the right answer for it to be simple memorization. Besides, she points out, Alex correctly answers questions even when they use toys he has never seen before. In fact, Alex scores slightly *better* with new objects than with ones that he has worked with a lot.

"Alex gets bored with his toys," Pepperberg explains. "He's just like a kid. A new toy will perk his interest."

Even when the tests get harder, Alex is still right about eight times out of 10. In one test, Dr. Pepperberg holds up a blue cork and a blue truck and asks, "What's the same?" Alex checks them both out and answers: "Color." Then Pepperberg shows him two identical square pieces of paper, asking "What's different?" Alex says, "None." She replaces one of the squares with a triangle and he answers, "Shape."

How did Alex learn what these words mean? Pepperberg found that parrots learn in the wild by watching their parents and other flock members. So she decided that Alex would learn from his adopted "flock."

First the researchers had to spend a lot of time with Alex to form a close relationship.

"We had to become part of his 'flock,'" says Pepperberg.

They then began teaching Alex to use words for objects. "Two trainers worked together. They'd take turns 'teaching' each other to name objects," Pepperberg explains. "At first, Alex just watched and listened. Then he started rattling off names."



Just Parroting?

Although many scientists think parrots are intelligent, some doubt they can understand and answer questions.

"Parrots are great mimics," Dr. Donald Bruning told CONTACT. He is a bird expert at the Bronx Zoo. "They're not 'talking.' They're imitating what they've heard to get attention."

Pepperberg agrees that Alex answers questions to get attention, but she says he's not just imitating sounds. "Alex knows what he's saying," she insists. "Some of what he says he has picked up on his own."

For example, when Alex is tired of working with the trainers, he announces, "I am going to go away." Then he turns his back. Pepperberg claims Alex was never taught those words.

When Alex is on the metal chair, he knows he has to work.

What's different? Alex looks at the two keys, then answers, "Color."



"That was something we would say to Alex before leaving the room," she explains. "It was a way to punish him when he wasn't working well."

Dr. Bruning isn't so sure parrots are as brainy as Pepperberg thinks. But he does believe parrots are good at reading people's faces. "If a parrot gets a response when it repeats a word, it will keep saying that word." He also thinks Alex may be picking up clues from his trainers.

But Pepperberg says she uses testers who haven't trained Alex. This prevents Alex from getting hints. Plus, Pepperberg keeps score of Alex's answers, but sits with her back turned. So she can't see the objects and Alex can't see her face.

Alex pulls a few surprise tests of his own. He isn't always the teacher's pet—especially when he's testing his flock's patience!

"Alex can really act like a spoiled two-year-old," Pepperberg admits. At times he refuses to answer questions. He'll shout, "No!" and then turn his back. Other times he'll stubbornly give the wrong answer over and over again. Once, when he was shown a green object and asked to tell what color it was, Alex rattled off every color he knew *except* green. Dr. Pepperberg laughs, "That's his way of torturing us." ♦

POLLY WANTS A CRACKDOWN!

Dr. Pepperberg hopes her work will make people realize how important it is to save parrots.

"There are about 330 different species of parrots in the world," Dr. Rosemarie Gnam told CONTACT. She is an expert on Bahama Amazon parrots. "Of that number, 71 are endangered."

What's threatening their survival? Humans. People are destroying the tropical rain forests where parrots live. "Parrots mostly nest in holes in older trees," explains Gnam. "When people chop down these trees, they're cutting down the number of sites where parrots can nest."

Parrots are also losing their freedom. Because parrots are in high demand as pets, they are being trapped by the millions. Rare birds can be sold for lots of money. So, many endangered species are illegally trapped and brought into the U.S.

"For every wild-caught bird in a pet store, as many as 100 others die," says Gnam. The parrots die because of poor handling, starvation, overcrowding, disease or simply from shock. "If people knew this, they would make sure to buy only parrots raised in captive-breeding programs."

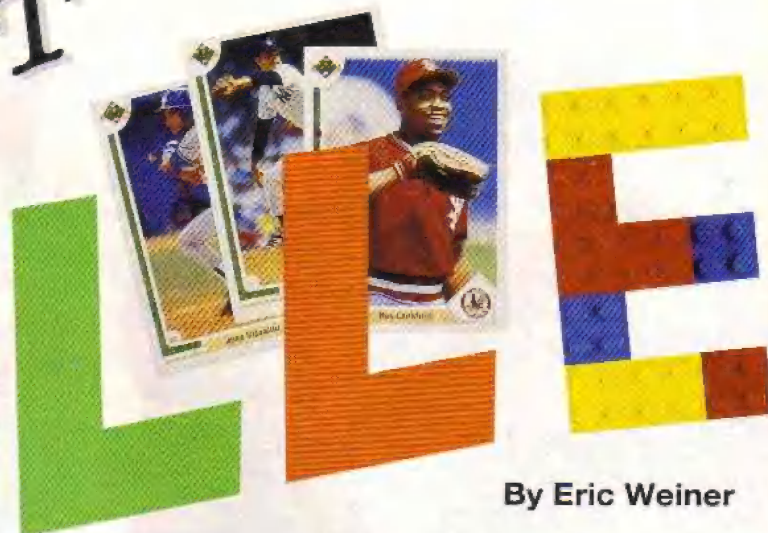
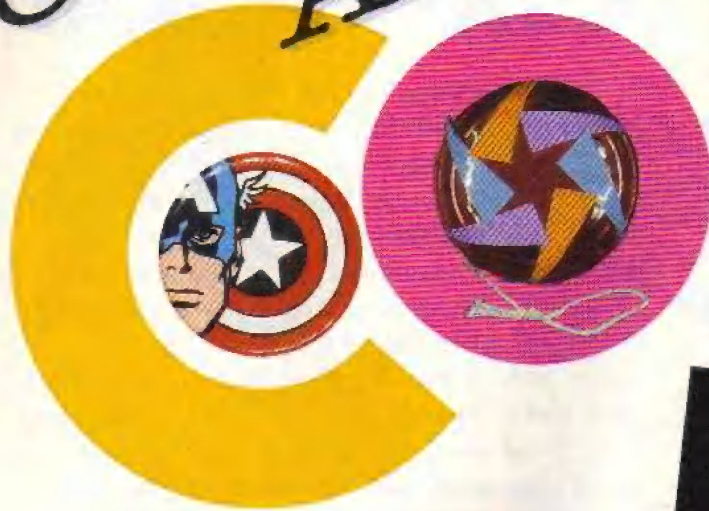
Scientists are asking people not to buy "broncos," or wild parrots. "Or better yet, buy a parakeet," suggests Gnam. "They're easier to take care of and they're not endangered."



These parrots were smuggled in a car trunk.

PHOTO: CHARLES BENJAMIN

CRAZY ABOUT



By Eric Weiner

Okay—what do flamingoes, potatoes, yo-yos, stamps, bars of hotel soap, baseball cards, frogs, coins, nuts, squirt guns, sugar packets and toilet paper all have in common?

Answer: They're all things that people collect!

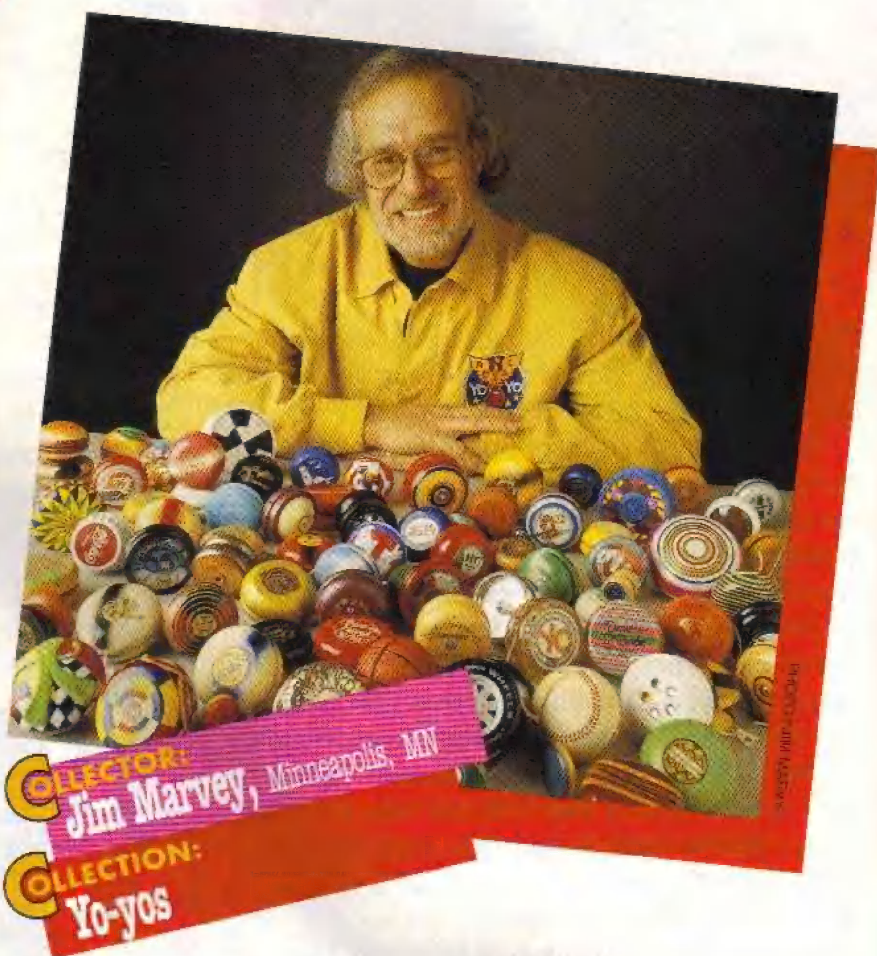
Take, for instance, Louise Mesa of Eureka Springs, AR. When she was five, she started collecting toy frogs. She has never stopped.

Fifty-four years later, she and her husband own more than 6,000 frogs of all shapes, sizes and types. The Mesas even run a frog museum!

They're not the only people to get bitten by the collecting bug, however. Toy frogs are just one of millions of odd items that are filling up the shelves of collectors all over the world.

Why do so many people—young and old—keep collections? To find out, CONTACT started a collection of our own. It's a collection of collectors!

So browse through our flea market. Then check out our tips for starting a collection. But be careful. Someday soon, you might find yourself running out of shelf space!



In 1927, a man named Pedro Flores invented the sleeping yo-yo. Donald Duncan bought the rights, and the rest is yo-yo history. "There are probably dozens of original Pedro yo-yos gathering dust in people's attics," says Jim Marvey. "But the known ones are very rare."

Two of the rare yo-yos Jim owns are a wooden Duncan studded with fake glass diamonds, and a yo-yo that came out after the Soviets launched *Sputnik*. "It's designed to look like a satellite," raves Marvey. "And it makes a space-age noise when it spins."



Ted, 14, lives near a hospital and a firehouse. That means he sees a lot of ambulances and fire trucks going by. "For as long as I can remember, I've always been fascinated by emergency vehicles," explains Ted.

Ted's father is also a collector, so he understood his son's interest. When Ted was seven, his father bought him a used ambulance with a working siren.

The ambulance has been parked in the Hake driveway ever since. And Ted has spent all of his free time—plus his allowance, his odd job earnings, and his birthday and holiday money—collecting the proper equipment to go inside.

Ted also collects fire helmets. And whenever he sees a flea market or garage sale, he hunts for patches from the uniforms of different ambulance crews. He now owns a couple of hundred.

COLLECTOR:
Ted Hake, Jr., York, PA
COLLECTION:
Ambulance equipment



PHOTO: TED HAKE, JR.

COLLECTOR:
Elizabeth Tashjian, Old Lyme, CT
COLLECTION:
Nuts



PHOTO: ANNE ALCAZAR

Elizabeth Tashjian first got interested in nuts as objects to paint. Her collection grew. So, in 1972, she opened the Nut Museum.

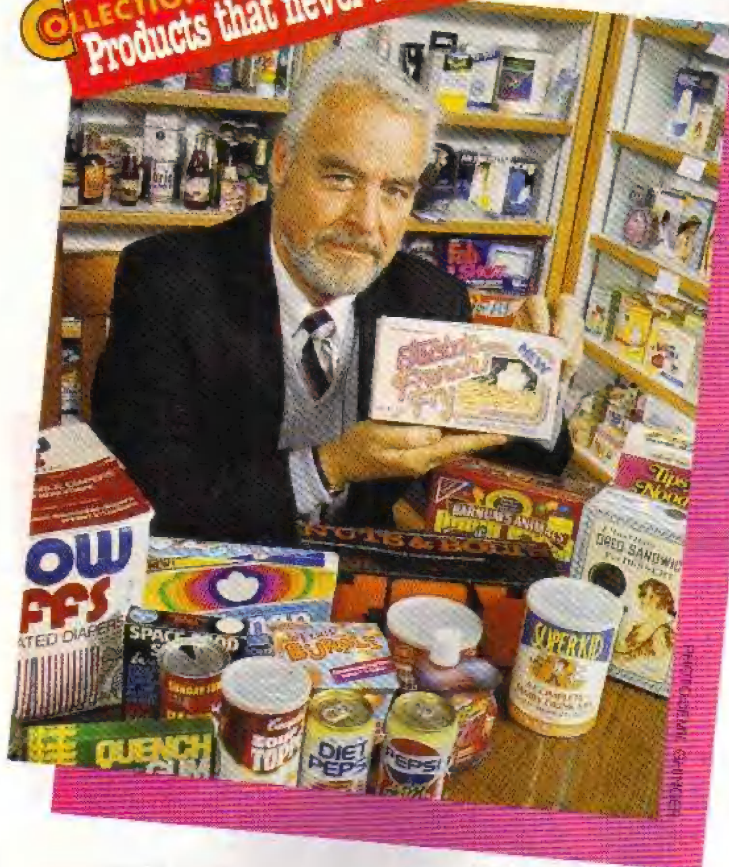
Today the collection includes a 35-pound specimen of the world's largest nut, the double coconut (shown above). There are also nut toys, nut furniture, nut spoons, nut pens, nut masks, nut pin cushions, and an eight-foot-tall nutcracker. Each day, Elizabeth Tashjian leads visitors to her museum in singing her nut anthem, "The March of the Nuts."

Says Tashjian, "We learn gentleness and respect from the nut, which is hard on the outside and soft and sweet on the inside."

How many nuts does she now have? "I'm not exactly sure. The squirrels and chipmunks have been stealing from me again. Winter is coming, so they're starting collections of their own!"

COLLECTOR:
Robert McMath, Ithaca, NY

COLLECTION:
Products that never made it



His collection has been called "The Museum of Failures" and the "Hall of Shame." That's because Robert McMath collects and saves products that have gone out of style.

"For instance, I've got a box of 'I Hate Peas.' They were peas molded into the shape of french fries. The company was hoping that the fries shape would get kids to eat their vegetables, but it didn't work.

"And then there are toaster eggs. They're eggs shaped like a discus so you can drop them in the toaster. That didn't catch on either. But the thing you have to remember is that eight out of every 10 new products fail each year."

And each year, McMath buys every new American product he can get his hands on, from pet food to kitchen cleanser.

Today, he owns over 75,000 products. He stores them in a vast warehouse. People who are trying to develop new products visit his collection to get ideas of what to do—and what *not* to do.

"When I was five, my family went on a trip. I put a penny in a gumball machine and a toy frog came out. By the time the trip was over, I had collected seven frogs," Louise Mesa recalls.

"I started out with a frog shelf. That turned into a frog bookcase. Then a frog cabinet. Then we had a frog room in our house."

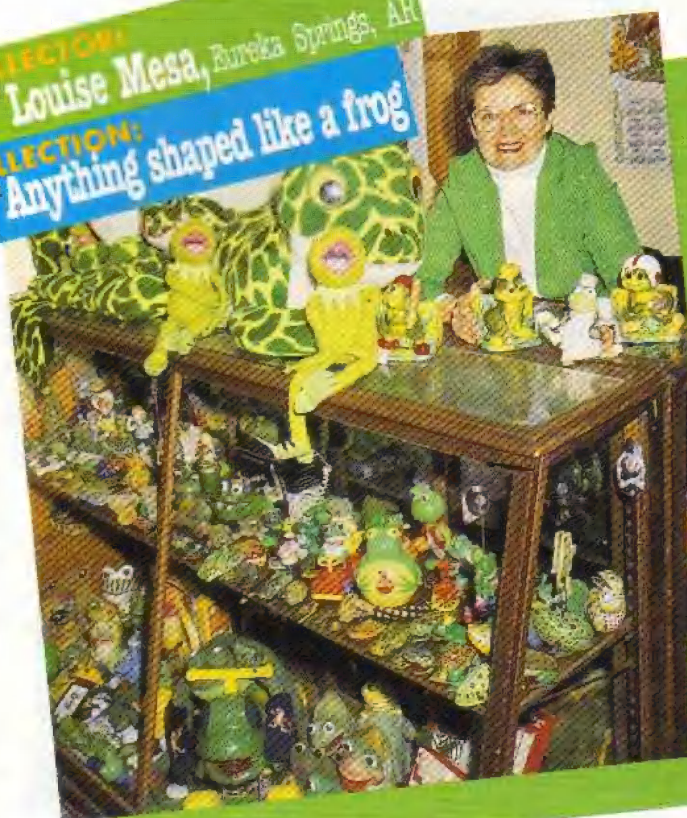
Today, Louise Mesa and her husband, Pat, run the Frog Museum, with its "Frogs Only" gift shop.

"Frogs are great to collect," says Louise, "because they're very steady. Every year, there are new frog things around. If you collect something like black and white cows, you might find that next year they go out of style. Not frogs."

The Mesa's convention of frog collectors attracts thousands of people from 16 states. Says Louise Mesa with a laugh, "When someone travels all the way to Eureka from Florida, you know they really love collecting frogs!" ♦

COLLECTOR:
Louise Mesa, Eureka Springs, AR

COLLECTION:
Anything shaped like a frog



WHEN THE COLLECTING BUG BITES

Expert collector Harry Rinker offers some tips to get you started.

1 Collect what you like

"First ask yourself, 'What do I really, really like?'" advises Harry Rinker. "It's important. Because with a collection, it's got to be something you want to have with you when you go to bed at night. And you have to enjoy looking at it first thing in the morning!"

Besides, the objects you like most will be the most fun to search for.

2 Collect what's affordable

If you decide you want to collect full-size grand pianos, it's probably going to be a little hard on your budget.

3 Spread the word

Once friends and relatives know you're collecting hats or bats or marbles, they'll keep an eye out for hats or bats or marbles wherever they go. They'll be glad to know what to give you as a gift, and you'll be glad to get it!

4 Before spending lots of money, study the market

Don't spend all your hard-earned money on, say, an expensive yo-yo, until you have checked out the books and price guides. "You have to make sure it's worth what the dealer is asking, or you could get ripped off."

5 Network

Talk to collectors. Find out which dealers handle your item. There may be many more fans out there than you think. There may even be a collectors magazine. (For yo-yo collectors, for example, there's *The Yo-Yo Times*.)

6 If you want to get serious, buy two of each

What's the fun of having a collection if you can't play with it? But some collectibles—baseball cards, for example—will grow to be more valuable if they're still in their original plastic wrappers. So for the sake of the future value of your collection, Harry Rinker recommends buying two of any item that comes wrapped. Keep one unopened. Play with the other one.

LIGHT

A CONTACT EDITOR GETS



By Curtis Slepian

was about to fly.

No, I don't have wings. What I *did* have was a blimp. I've often seen blimps over New York City, and have always wondered what it was like to ride one. Now I was going to find out.

I was standing in the middle of a grass field at an airport on Long Island, NY. In the sky, coming down closer and closer—and getting bigger and bigger—was the MetLife blimp. Soon, I would be carried away by a balloon half as long as a football field!

But first I had to get *on* the blimp. And that wasn't so easy. When a blimp picks up passengers, it stays a few feet off the ground, with the engines running. The ground crew tries to hold the blimp steady with long ropes, but it still moves around. So you must also move to catch hold of the stairway leading to the cabin doorway. I tripped over the last step, nearly falling on my face!

In the cabin two pilots sat in a glass-enclosed cockpit. In front and above them were levers, switches, dials and rods. These allowed them to send the blimp in any direction. As I stumbled into a seat, the pilots made the blimp rise at a steep angle. Houses below got small in a hurry!

The blimp quickly reached a height of about 1,000 feet. It doesn't usually go much higher than about 3,000 feet. (Jet planes cruise at about 30,000 feet!) Now, roaring engines were sending it towards New York City. It was traveling about as fast as a car, between 35 and 60 miles per hour. But no traffic lights slowed it down.

Looking up through the cabin windows, I could see the sides of the blimp. They were covered with thousands of colored, plastic discs that could be lit up. Ninety-seven miles of wires connect the discs to an on-board computer. The

FLIGHT

TAKEN FOR A RIDE... ON A BLIMP!



PHOTO COURTESY MET LIFE

computer programs the lighted discs to spell out messages at night. It's like a flying billboard!

The cabin seated five people. But I was too excited to sit down. I ran from one window to another so I wouldn't miss any sights. On one side I saw the Atlantic Ocean gleaming in the afternoon sun. Fishing boats and pleasure craft bobbed on the waves. On the other side were the beaches and towns of Long Island's South Shore.

What amazed me as much as the views was the feeling I got riding the blimp—there was no feeling. I could hardly tell if the ship was going forward or up or down. It was like floating on air.

Crash Course

During my ride, the propellers, which move the blimp forward, became silent for a moment. This made me a little nervous. I thought, "Uh-oh, the

propellers stopped. We're going to crash!" But then I realized how safe a blimp really is. Even if both propellers stopped working, the ship wouldn't crash. The blimp would hang in midair. When it floated over an open space, the pilot would let out the helium—the gas that causes a blimp to float. Then the blimp would drift gently to the ground. Helium is non-flammable, which means it can't burn. So even if the blimp did crash, it wouldn't explode.

Riding in a blimp is incredible fun. And so is flying one. MetLife's chief pilot is Mike Fitzpatrick. He has been flying blimps for 16 years. He took his first ride in 1970 and was hooked. He told CONTACT, "I thought it was a neat way to fly. And a relaxed way. Now there isn't anything else I'd rather be doing."

Blimps are more than just cool ways to cruise

**Because the cabin
isn't pressurized,
you can open the
windows and wave
to the people below!**

around. Some are used to spot drug activity and people illegally crossing the U.S. border. These pilotless balloons are tied to the ground in Florida, San Diego, CA, and off the coast of Mexico. Radar on board is checked by law enforcement people on the ground.

And, according to Suzanne Pelisson, an official for the MetLife blimp, one day

commuters may take blimps to work. She told CONTACT, "To hold a lot of people, the balloon would have to carry much more helium. It would have to be almost 700 feet long."

I wasn't a commuter. But I *was* headed to the city. Now the balloon was floating over New York City's harbor. I spotted the Statue of Liberty. In the sunlight, the gold torch shone. All I could say was, "Wow!" The pilot grinned when he saw the look on my face. Then he said we had to return to the airfield.

The blimp slowly turned around. On the return trip, it flew over part of Brooklyn—an area of New York. I looked down and saw something unbelievable. The blimp was passing over the apartment house I grew up in! I yelled to my parents, but at 500 feet up, I don't think they heard me.

Look Out Below!

Going back to the airport, the pilots again flew over the beaches of Long



PHOTO COURTESY BARRY SIMON

HOW A BLIMP WORKS

Riding a blimp is a gas. And the reason it floats is also a gas—helium. More than 200,000 cubic feet of helium fill the skin of the MetLife blimp. The skin is called the envelope.

Helium is seven times lighter than air. And when the gas rises, it sends up the envelope and everything attached to it.

Inside the front and back of the envelope are two large sacs, called ballonets (say: *bal-on-EHS*). To keep the pressure even in the envelope, the pilot lets air into or out of the sacs during the flight. As the balloon goes higher, the helium pressure increases. So air is let out of the sacs. If that didn't happen, the helium would push harder against the envelope, straining it.

When the balloon goes down, helium pressure decreases. Then the pilot lets air into the sacs. Otherwise, the envelope would begin to collapse.

Normal pressure for the envelope, says

MetLife pilot, Mike Fitzpatrick, "is about the same as in your lungs." The outside skin of the envelope feels "almost fleshlike. It has give."

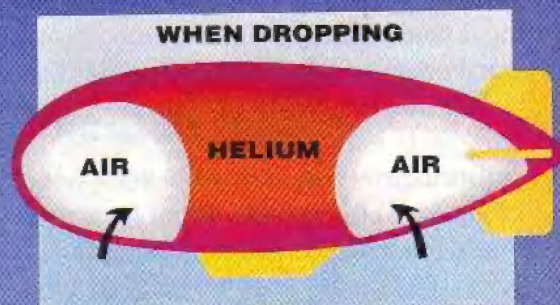
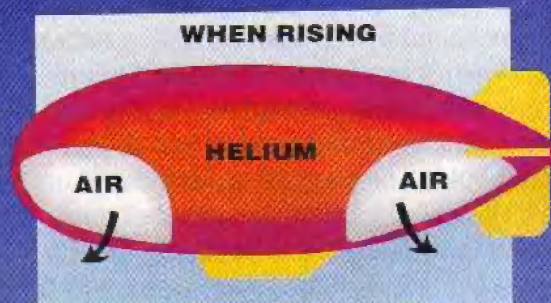




PHOTO COURTESY BARRY SIMON

The ground crew holds the blimp steady with ropes while passengers come aboard.

Island. One of the best parts of traveling in a balloon is that you get to see birds from above. As we followed seagulls, I saw how they flew in packs, swooping and turning together. Smaller packs of birds flying near them looked like clouds of mosquitoes.

In fact, balloons are just now being used by scientists to watch birds and fish

from above. In Florida, research biologists have ridden in Sea World's blimp, *Airship Shamu*. Because the blimp is quiet and can hover or match the swimming speed of marine life, scientists are using it to get a lot of information about manatees—a marine mammal in danger of extinction.

My trip was almost over. Ahead was the airfield. The pilots were on the radio talking to the blimp's ground crew. The blimp needs 13 people to help it land. They were on the field as the ship's nose pointed down.

As the blimp got close to the field, the ground crew grabbed the two ropes dangling from the nose of the blimp.

The blimp doesn't sit in a hangar at night. It stays out in the open, its nose attached to a mast, swinging freely in the breeze. Someone guards the blimp 24 hours a day when it isn't in the air.

Back on the ground, I had to take a railroad train home. Too bad, I thought. It would be so much neater to ride the blimp home! ♦

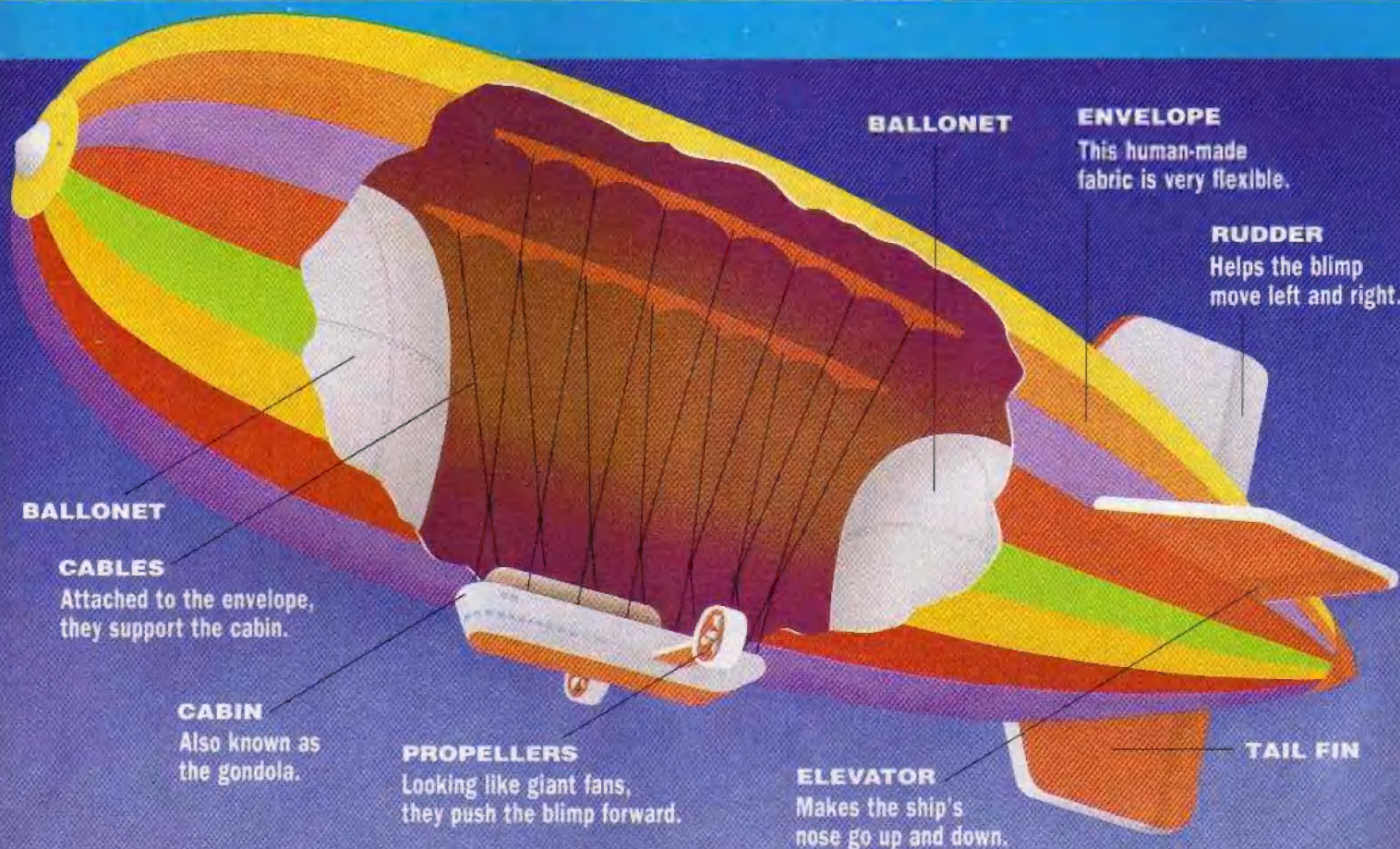
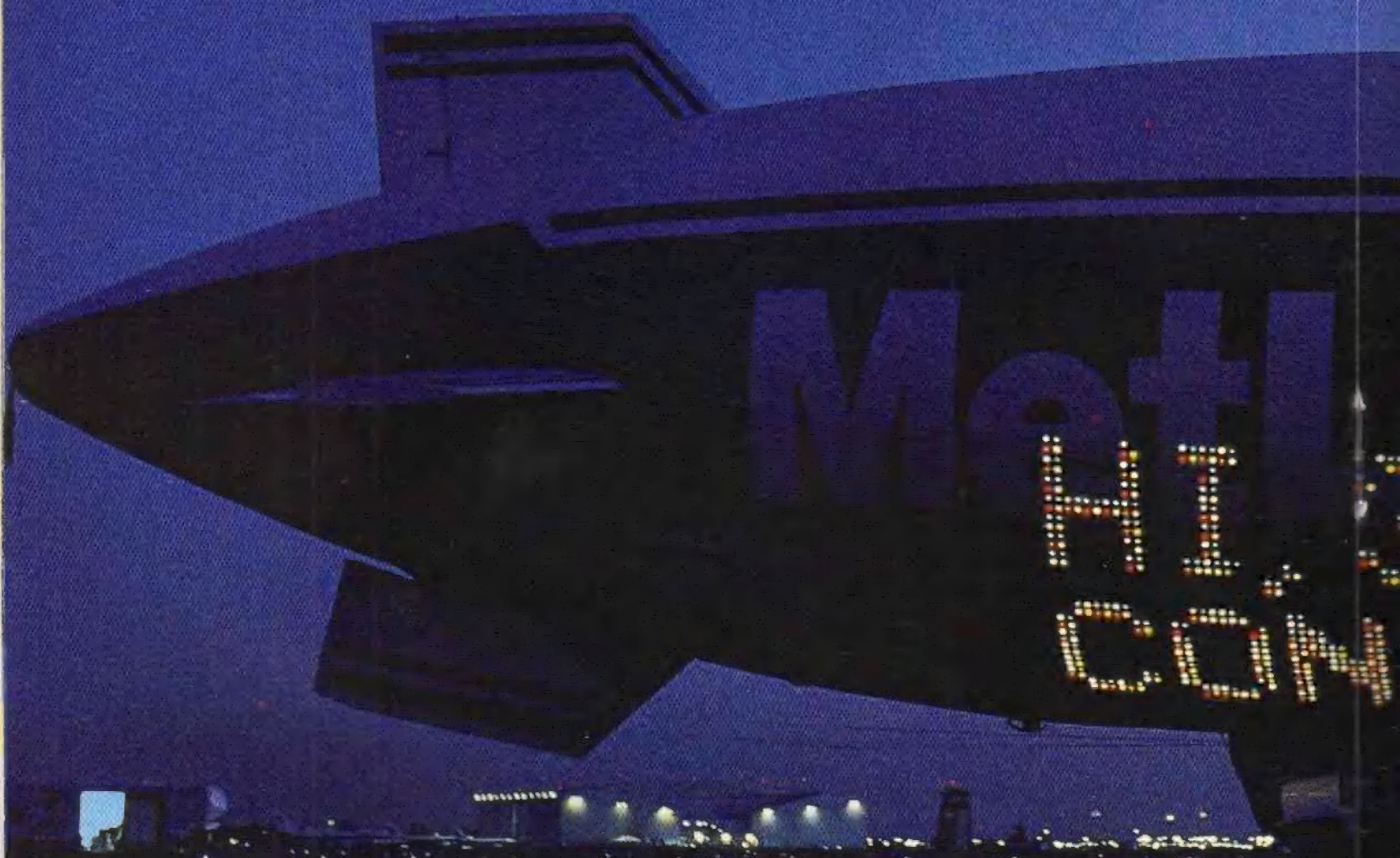


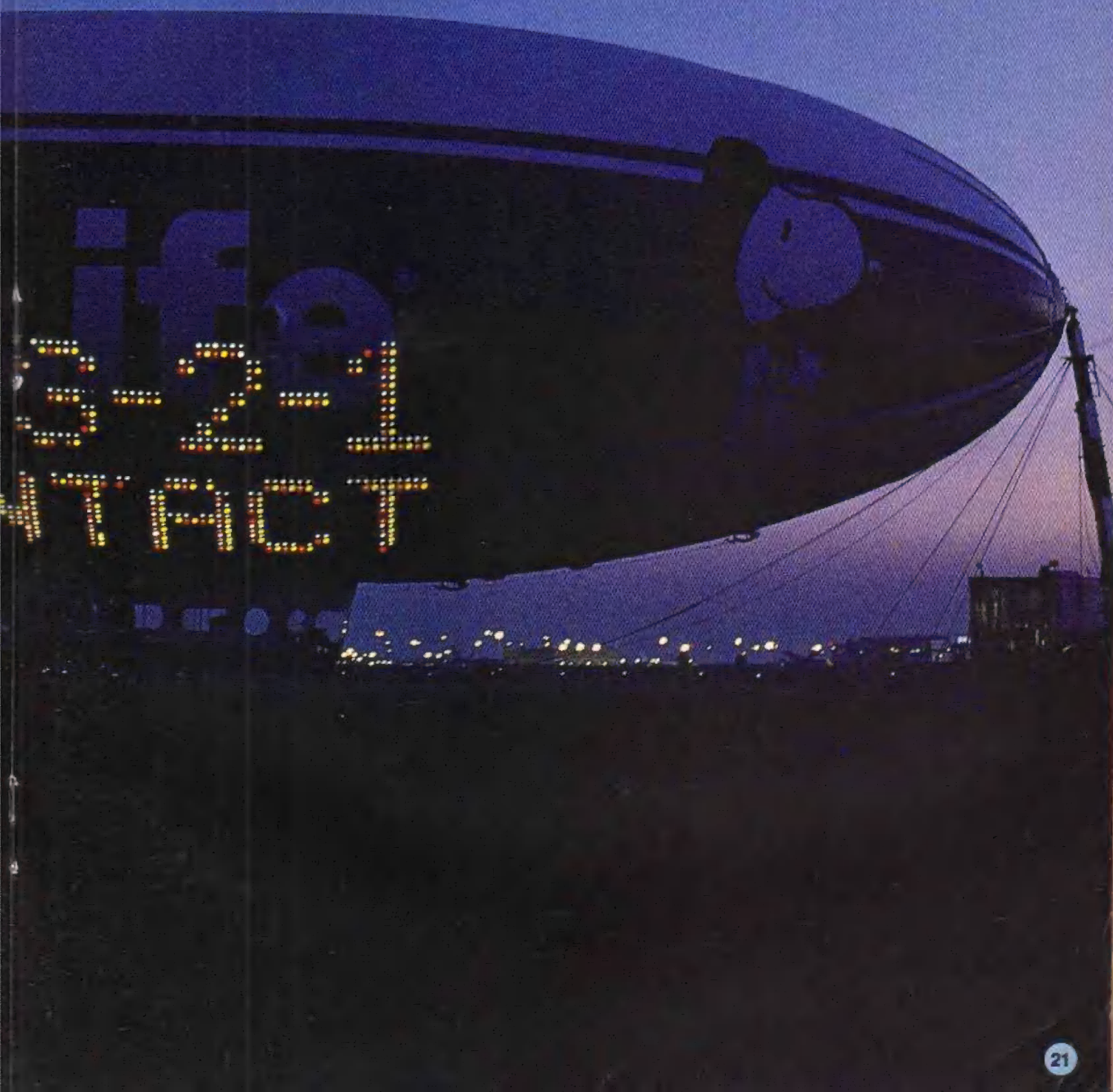
ILLUSTRATION BY AL SWARTZ

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A 3·2·1 CONTACT POSTER



Two puppy raisers hug
future seeing eye dogs.

COVERED THE SEEING EYE



PUPPY LOVE

KIDS TRAIN SEEING EYE DOGS

By Nicole Gregory

Pretend you're blind. Suddenly, just walking down the street can be as dangerous as any adventure that the movie hero Indiana Jones ever had. You must avoid holes in the ground, fenced-off sidewalks, low-hanging trees. And the worst danger is the cars speeding through intersections.

Blind people face these challenges daily. But, luckily, many of them have their own real-life heroes to guide them to safety: seeing eye dogs.

Maybe you've seen a sightless person being led by a dog in a leather harness. These wonder dogs

not only watch out for obstacles—they even pick up small things that the owner drops, like keys or a wallet. It takes special training to get “man’s best friend” to do all that. And the place most seeing eye dogs get this training is The Seeing Eye, an organization in Morristown, NJ.

The Seeing Eye doesn’t use just any dog—it must be smart, calm and friendly. Scientists have found that German shepherds, boxers, labrador retrievers and golden retrievers are the right size and have the best personalities for the job.

A Family Affair

You might think only trained experts are allowed to raise seeing eye dogs. Think again! The first person who takes care of a guide dog is a young person like you!

After a seeing eye dog is born, The Seeing Eye sends the puppy to the home of a family. The families are chosen by The Seeing Eye Puppy-Raising Program/4-H Project. These families come from New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware. One child in the family is assigned to make sure the dog is fed, walked and cleaned. He or she teaches the dog such commands as sit, down and rest. But everybody in the family helps with the dog.

The family gets to keep the puppy for one year. After that, they give it back to The Seeing Eye for special training. Then it's given to a blind person. But the year with the kids is important. The puppy gets lots of love and attention. And it grows up around everyday noises, such as vacuum cleaners, cars and fire engines. A puppy that is used to these sounds won't get scared hearing them later—when guiding a blind person.

James Chester, 10, and his brother John, 13, of Warrington, PA, have taken care of Seeing Eye puppies for four years. They think it's great. But it's also a lot of work. "For the first couple of nights, we sleep on the floor with them, so they don't miss the other puppies," explains James.

"But it's hard when they want to jump up on the bed. You have to squeeze their paws and say, 'No!' They whine a little but they don't do it again."

Another rule dogs learn is no eating scraps from the table. Otherwise, later, if the blind person took the dog into a restaurant, the dog might try to beg for food. That would embarrass its master.

To make sure the dog will be comfortable in different kinds of places, the family tries to take their dogs with them everywhere.

James and John Chester take their dogs to the post office, church, on the train and to the ice cream store. "Sometimes we talk to the person in charge of a place, like the manager," John told CONTACT. "We explain what our Puppy Club does, so we can bring our dog."

Rebecca Bentz, 11, lives next door to James and John. She takes care of a seeing eye dog named Darby, a black labrador. Rebecca says, "Darby loves to sniff around and lick people. He swims in our pool and jumps off the diving board!"

Canine Classroom

When one year is up, the family has to give the dog back to The Seeing Eye. The children can never play with that dog again. It's not easy to give the dog up, according to Rebecca. "I don't really



COURTESY THE SEEING EYE

At a 4-H fair, kids put on an obedience demonstration with their young guide dogs.

want to give up Darby. I know he's going to guide a blind person, but I'm going to miss him."

John Chester sees it another way: "It's not as hard as you think because when you give up one dog, you get another puppy. It's just five or six weeks old and that sort of helps."

When the dog goes back to The Seeing Eye headquarters, an instructor trains it 45 minutes a day for three months. The instructor repeats routines over and over. In one routine, a trainer walked the dog up to a parking meter. The first few times, the dog stopped at the meter, sniffing it. The trainer scolded the dog. They tried it again. This time, the dog led the trainer around the parking meter without stopping. The trainer said, "Good Boy!" with a lot of feeling. Food is never given as a reward. Dogs really want to please their owners and seek affection.

During training, the dog learns that as long as it is wearing the leather harness, it is working—listening for commands, watching for danger. If you ever see a blind person with a dog, don't go up and pet it. This keeps a dog from doing its job, which is to keep the blind person safe.

After three months of training, the dogs are ready to graduate to full-time guide dogs.

Graduating pooches must be healthy and they must have the right personality. Some dogs are too afraid of traffic or like to chase other animals. Others are too protective. For instance, if a blind person goes to a restaurant and the waiter comes up quickly to take the order, an overly protective dog might jump up and growl.

Doug Roberts, the Director of Training at The Seeing Eye, explains that, like people, each dog is different. "Some are energetic, some are slow. Some dogs like a challenge and are good for a blind person living in a

city. Others might be better on a farm in Iowa. We get to know the dogs real well. Then, when a blind person comes here, we try to get to know that person, too."

That's because they want to match him or her with the right dog: Is the person a fast or slow walker, loud or quiet, impatient or calm? For example, says Roberts, "We wouldn't give a dog with a lot of energy to an old person who doesn't walk outside much."

Once a match is made, the blind person works



COURTESY THE SEEING EYE

**During a 4-H dog show,
a girl takes a minute to
pet her pooch.**

**A trainer from The Seeing Eye teaches
a guide dog to go around obstacles.**



PHOTO © THE SEEING EYE

with the dog for one week. After all, sightless people have a lot to learn about their dogs.

Blind Faith

Michele Drolet is a woman who has been blind since birth. All she sees are light and dark—no shapes or colors. She described to CONTACT what it is like to be blind: "It's not black, it's nothingness. You can't see behind your head. That's what it's like to be blind—it's just not there."

To be able to rely on a seeing eye dog gives new freedom to a blind person who might be afraid of falling or getting lost.

"One time I got confused in the snow," says Drolet. "You can't hear as well when it snows because sounds are muffled. I came out of my house and made a wrong turn. I didn't know where I was. My dog knew I was lost—dogs can sense it. So I just said, 'Hop up!', which is like 'go ahead.' She took me home and we started over again!"

The children who raised Drolet's dog will never meet or talk to Drolet—the name of every dog's master is private. But The Seeing Eye sends a letter telling the children what towns their dogs live in and how they are doing.

Drolet doesn't know who raised her dog, either. But she knows *something* about the family: "My dog Tessa is wonderful. She must have had a very sound and secure family. I'm very grateful." ♦

PHOTO © KEN KOBRE / BLACK STAR



**Guide dogs are trained to get used to people. And
people must be taught to get used to their guide dogs.**

FACT



An ear of corn always has an even number of rows.



The coldest place on Earth is Vostok, Antarctica. Its average temperature is minus 2 degrees F.



The most powerful muscle in the human body is the jaw muscle.

Olds

▼
Lemons have more sugar in them than strawberries.



▼
The adult human body is made up of 100 trillion (100,000,000,000,000) cells.



▼
Fish have no eyelids..

THE TIME TEAM

Dangerous Games

By Curtis Slepian

Sean Nolan and his friends were playing hacky sack on the soccer field of Albert Einstein High School. The sun was out, and Jenny Lopez was sitting in the bleachers.

Sean bounced the sack off his foot, shoulders, hips and elbows. He thought Jenny was watching, so he used his best moves.

She wasn't watching, however. Instead, she was replacing batteries in her tachyon machine. This was a time traveling device she had made as a science fair project. In her pocket were two universal translators. Sean and Jenny got them on an earlier trip to the 21st century. When worn, the teens could understand and speak any language.

Just then, Sean trotted over to Jenny. "Hey," he said to her, "check out this cool move." Hopping on one foot, Sean kicked the sack over his head. But he kicked it too hard. It soared in the air and landed right on the tachyon machine, hitting the start button. A bright light made the other hacky sackers turn to the bleachers.

"Where did Sean go?" asked one of them.

"Must have gone off with Jenny," said another.

Sean *had* gone off with Jenny. A thousand miles and a thousand years away.

Outside a vast city rising from a green jungle, a young man and woman were on their knees. Their hands were tied behind their backs. They knelt in front of a man with an amazing headdress made of bright birdfeathers. He was chanting something. The group was at the end of a long path that led into the center of a giant, deep well.

Facing this scene, at the back of a large crowd of people, were Sean and Jenny. Both teens were confused. Time traveling is hard, especially when it happens unexpectedly. They put the universal translators in their ears so they could understand

the man. "Chac, god of the rain, I give you two for sacrifice," he thundered. "In return, soak our crops with water."

Suddenly, the man picked up the woman and threw her into the well. She sank without a word.

The teens were horrified. As the man in the headdress reached for the young man, Sean started to push through the crowd.

"Stop!" Sean yelled. "This is murder!"

People gasped and drew back from the teens. Everyone here was short, with black hair. Sean was taller than the tallest man.

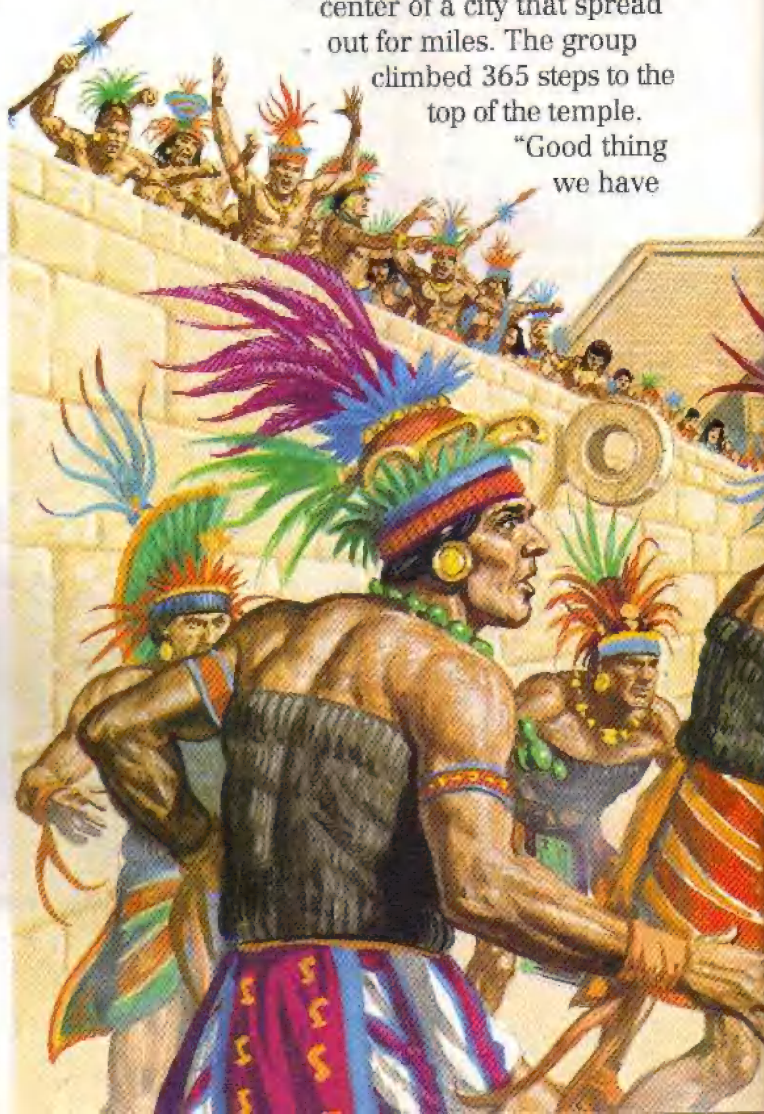
The Feathered Serpent

People pointed. One cried out in fear, "His hair is red, the color of blood. He is the god of the feathered serpent come to Chichen Itza!"

Jenny grabbed Sean. "We're in Chichen Itza, a city in Mexico built by the Mayan Indians. We've arrived centuries before Columbus landed in the New World!"

The man in the headdress bowed before the teens. Then he took them to the Temple of the Feathered Serpent. This pyramid was near the center of a city that spread out for miles. The group climbed 365 steps to the top of the temple.

"Good thing we have



sneakers on," joked Sean.

At its top was a small stone house, used as an observatory. Sitting in it, staring at the sky, was an old man.

The old man was Ah Kin Mai, chief priest of Chichen Itza. "You have arrived the day after the solar eclipse. It was a sign you, Kukulcan, the feathered serpent, would visit us."

"Awesome! Being a god is even better than being class president!" Sean exclaimed.

Jenny wasn't so sure. "Sean, pretending to be a god is so bogus. Can't you just be yourself?"

The teens got the royal treatment. They were even allowed to sip a chocolate drink. This was a big deal, because only kings were allowed to taste it. Sean wasn't impressed. "Ugh! There's no sugar in it. It's bitter."

The next day, after posing for pictures—that is, for the royal stone carver—Sean and Jenny passed a long, narrow court. High on one wall was a stone ring. Men were playing a game with a small rubber ball. The game was called pok-a-tok. Its object was to get the ball to go through the stone ring. It was like basketball, but the players couldn't use their hands—just their feet, shoulders or hips.

"That game looks dynamite," Sean cried.

"I want to play!"

Jenny said, "Maybe we should just watch. We don't know the customs around here yet and—"

Sean cut her off. "I'm going to be a superstar! They're going to put my picture on pok-a-tok trading cards!"

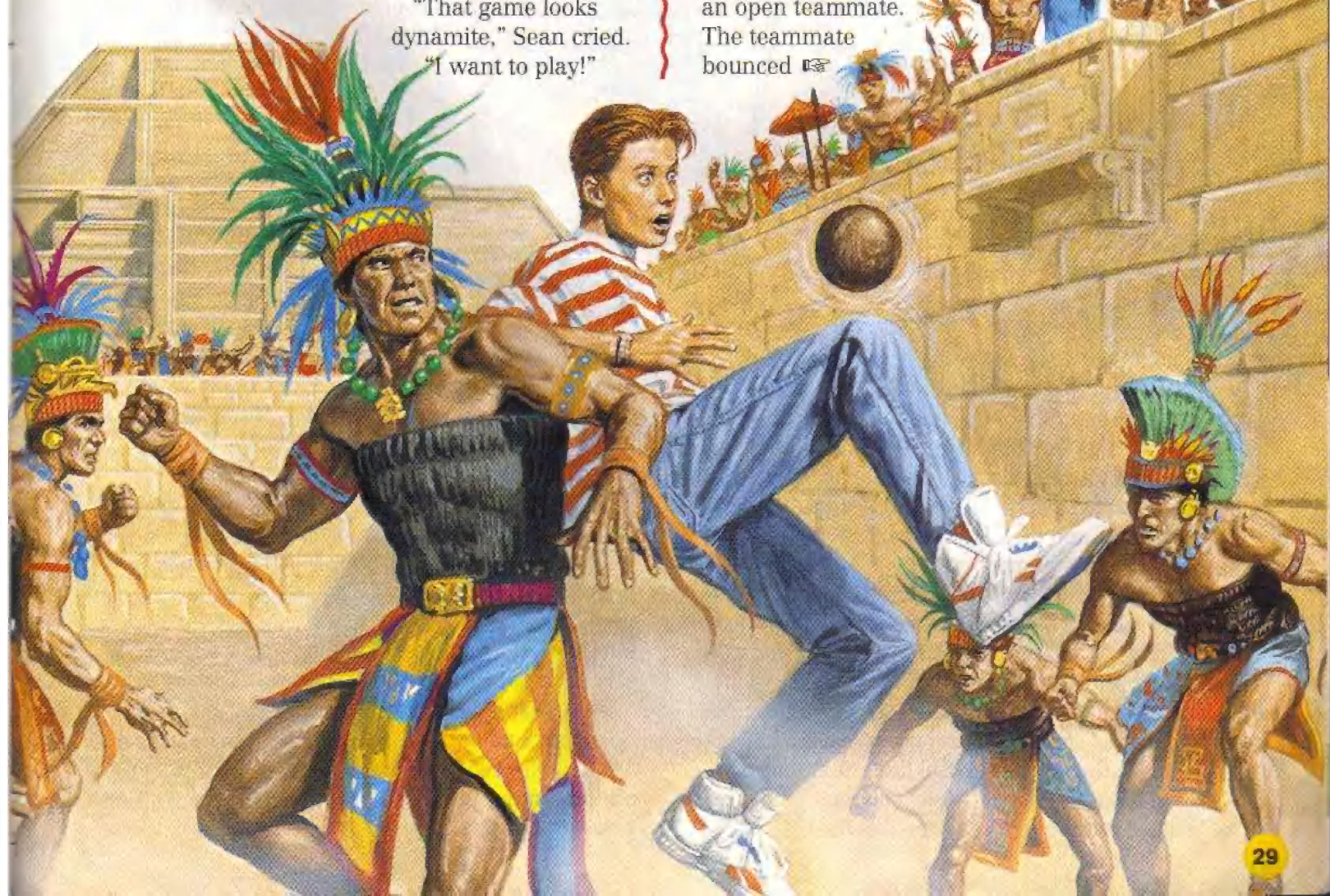
Pok Attack

Sean ran on the court. The priest ordered that he be allowed to play. If Kukulcan wanted to play pok-a-tok, the priest wasn't about to say no.

The game began. It was a lot rougher than Sean expected. Players wore padding, and they needed it. Going for the ball, the players pushed and rammed into each other. But they didn't hit Sean—the god might get angry and destroy them.

One of Sean's teammates bounced the ball off his knee in Sean's direction. Sean caught it on his foot, bounced it in the air, then kicked it in the direction of the ring. It went through! The crowd looking down from both sides of the court cheered. Sean grabbed the ball and spiked it—the way they did in football games.

The game continued nonstop. Sean passed the ball to an open teammate. The teammate bounced



THE TIME TEAM

it through the ring—an assist to Sean! He raised his finger in the air. "I'm number one!"

Sean's team was up 2-0. Sean started hotdogging, waving to Jenny. She didn't like the way the place was beginning to fill with warriors.

Suddenly, the other team struck. They scored three goals in a row. Sean put another goal through to tie things up.

The other team began to hit Sean. He got knocked into the side wall and fell down. These people were playing as if their lives depended on winning! Then the opposition began to score big. They went ahead by one goal, then another. Finally, the game ended when the opponents had scored 10 goals. Sean's team had lost.

"Nice game, guys," Sean said to his teammates. They looked terrified. "It's not the end of the world," he laughed.

"That's what you think," said one of them.

Warriors with spears and bows and arrows entered the court. They began rounding up the losing team. "What's going on?" asked Sean.

"The losers of pok-a-tok are sacrificed to the rain god, Chac," said a grinning warrior.

Sean whined, "But I'm a god. You can't do that to me!"

"If you were a god," he replied, "you wouldn't have lost the game. Tomorrow you will be drowned."

With that, he herded Sean and the rest of the losers into a stone building.

If Sean wasn't a god, neither was Jenny. She was to be sent to a merchant in another city in exchange for a handful of chocolate beans. Sean always screws up our time trips, she thought.

Jenny was miserable. She had to save Sean. But she also had to save herself. What if they found the time machine and took it from her? Should she take off alone to the 20th century?

"No!" she thought. Sometimes she wanted to bop Sean herself. But she didn't really want anything bad to happen to him. Sometimes she even liked him. She'd think of something.

The next morning, excited voices woke her up.

A man was shouting, "You must reach our warriors before the sun sinks. Tell them that they are walking into an ambush by our enemies."

Another voice said, "I can't run that fast!"

The first voice replied, "Then it will be too late."

Jenny looked through the window and saw that the runner was barefoot. An idea came to her—a way to save Sean's life!

She shouted, "Promise to let go of me and the boy with red hair and I'll save your troops from ambush."

The door opened and Jenny was brought before the ruler of Chichen Itza.

"How will you save our troops?"

Sneaker Squeaker

Jenny pointed to her feet. "These sneakers will make your runner as fast as Bo Jackson."

The ruler frowned. "Who is Bo Jackson?"

"The god of sports," Jenny said. She took off her sneakers and held them out. "Put these on," she told the runner. They fit his feet easily.

The runner took off.

The ruler spoke. "If he doesn't reach them in time, you will be sacrificed also."

Jenny gulped. A warrior brought out Sean, tied hand and foot. "These Mayans are bad sports," he said. "Beam us out of here." She tried to get close to him, but the warrior pushed her back.

Hours passed. The teens waited, fearfully looking at the deep well. Then, in late afternoon, the nearby woods stirred. Strong arms gripped Jenny and Sean, ready to throw them into the water.

Someone was coming through the edge of the jungle. It was the runner! Breathless, he couldn't speak at first. Sean and Jenny were sweating in fear. Then he gasped, "I reached the men quickly and warned them. Thanks to those magical shoes, I turned defeat into victory!"

The ruler smiled. The ropes were untied.

Jenny took the sneakers back.

"Give me those magic shoes," said the ruler.

"No way," said Jenny. "They're too expensive." As the warriors raised their spears, she hit the start button on the tachyon machine. With a flash, she and Sean vanished.

They reappeared on the soccer field the instant after they had left.

Jenny looked at her sneakers. "Bo knows football and Bo knows baseball. But do you think Bo knows pok-a-tok?" ♦



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Lisa Frank



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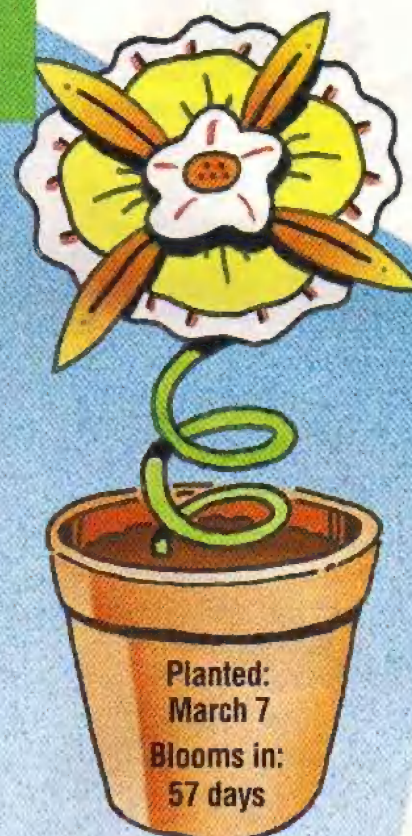
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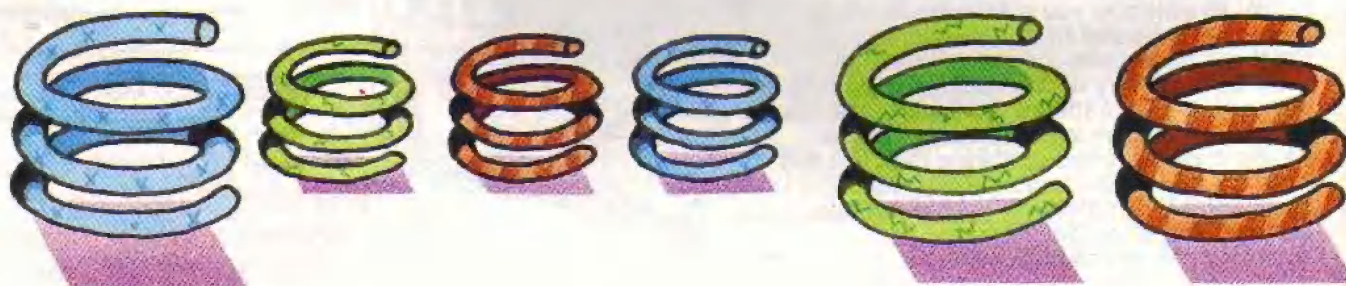


▲ Spring Flowers

It's time to plant this year's garden. But it will take some time before these flowers bloom. Which spring flower will go ka-bloom first?

▼ Coiled Again!

There's a pattern in this row of coils. Can you guess which one of the three coils in the circle should go next?
Hint: Check out the color and size.



Z

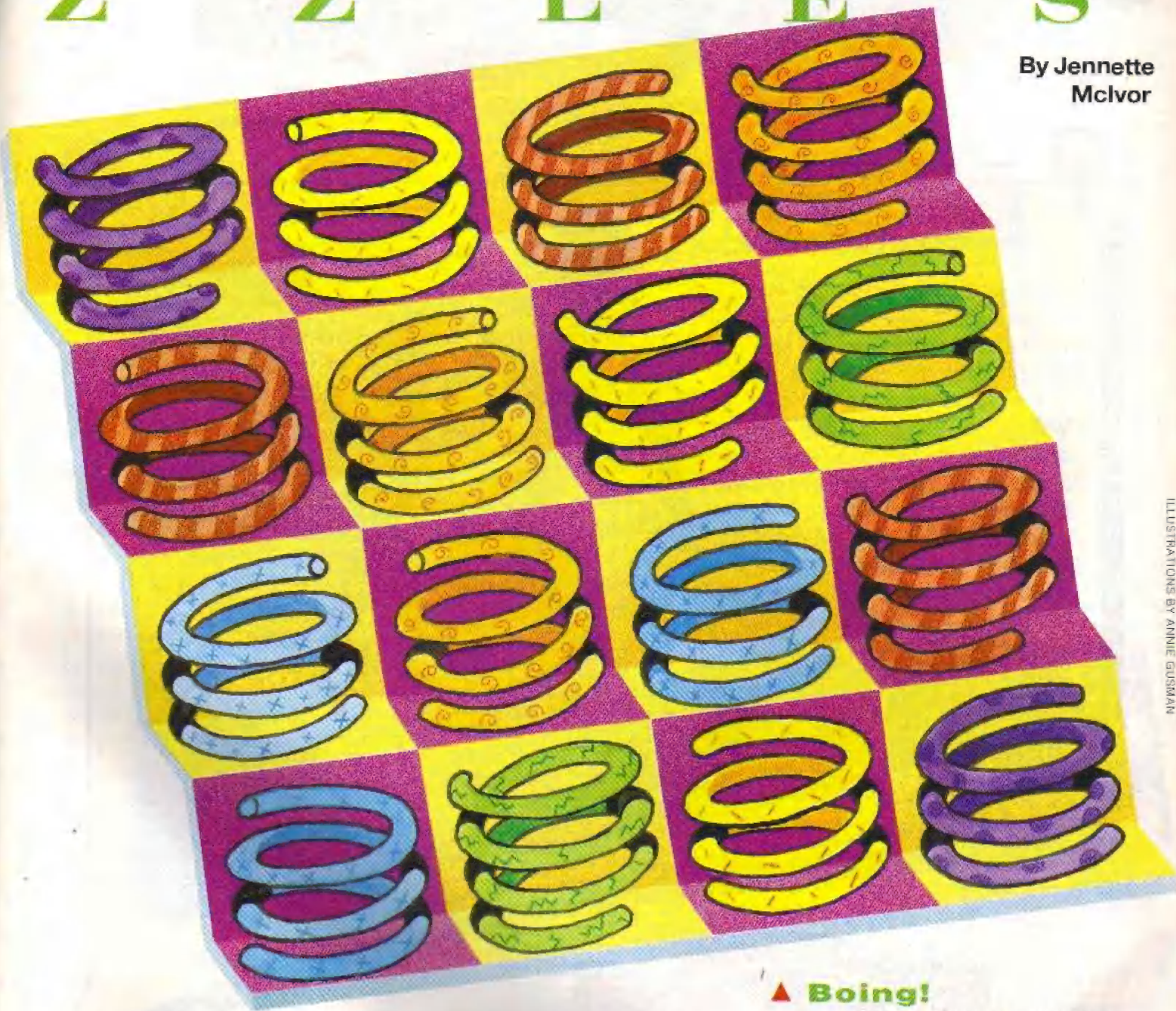
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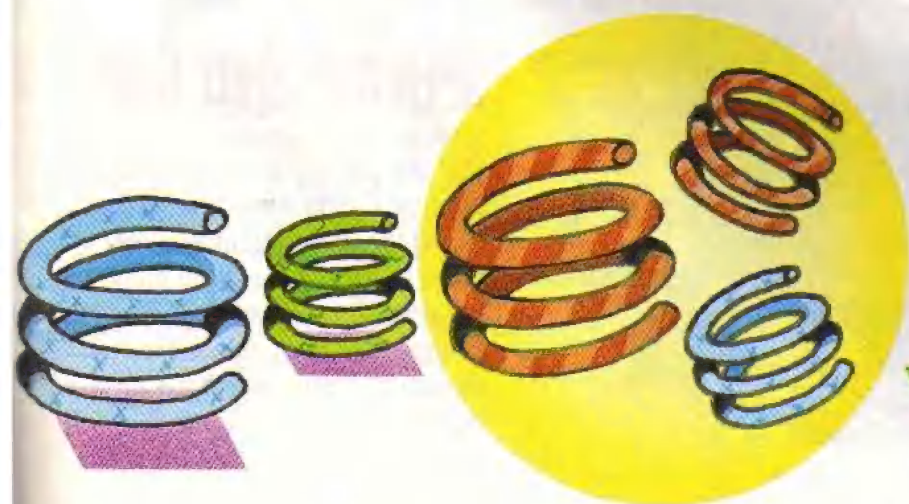
By Jennette
McIvor



ILLUSTRATIONS BY ANNIE GUSMAN

▲ Boing!

Can you bounce your way from one purple spring to another? You can move up, down, left or right. But you can't move diagonally. Here's the trick: You can't bounce twice on a spring of the same color.



Answers on the Did It page.



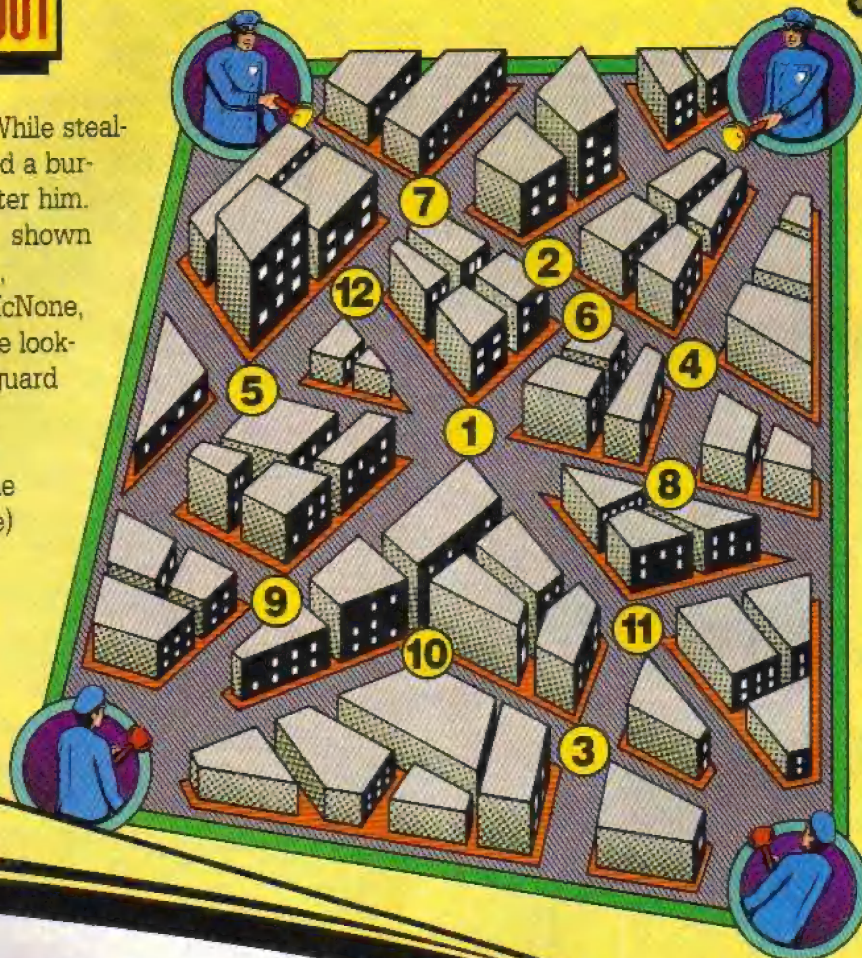
By Marvin Miller

SCREWY STAKE OUT

Benny the Burglar bungled. While stealing the Orion Diamond, he tripped a burglar alarm. Now the police are after him. He's trapped in the part of town, shown on the right. Four police officers, McDone, McFun, McRun and McNone, have arrived on the scene. On the look-out for Benny, they're standing guard at different street corners.

Benny is hiding at one of the numbered intersections. But none of the officers (including McNone) can see him.

At which intersection is Benny standing with the jewel?



OPEN AND SHUT CASE

It's a hot summer day in Bay City. People are strolling past Sweet's Candy Store. Painted across the store's double glass doors is an advertisement for Popsicle sticks. That's not so strange. Yet the police soon start receiving urgent telephone calls. HOW COME?



CONTEST ROUNDUP

OUT ON A LIMB

The winning answer to our tree word search contest (September '91 issue) is REDWOOD.

The first-place winners are:

Solmarie Babilonia, Brooklyn, NY
Mark S. Paparo, New Holland, PA
Taylor Gonda, Greenley, CO
Rosalie Robicheau, Nova Scotia, Canada
Karen Clark, Orlando, FL
Saffron Hunter, Springfield, OR
Dennis Shu, Agoura Hills, CA
Abeo Anderson, Washington, DC
Bonnie Howe, Waxahachie, TX
Kenny Martin, Lansing, MI

Second-place winners are:

Lekesha Campbell, Bronx, NY
Amy Miles, St. Louis, MO
Sarah Schipul, Watertown, CT
Corey Smith, Benton, AR
Brandon Wertz, Kenner, LA
Sam Briggs, Reading, KS
Chris Beheler, Aiken, SC
Mike Pennell, Hartwell, GA
Christina Franklin, Miami, FL
Ben Carter, Vacaville, CA

IN THE BAG

Congratulations to the 10 winners who solved our Halloween contest (October '91 issue). They discovered that Colonel Snickelsnyder put POTATOES in the kids' Halloween bags!

The first-place winners are:

Ryan Chance, Gainesville, FL
Kristi Mills, Kinthersville, PA
Michelle Wassenaar, Evergreen Park, IL
Bill Pearson, Sharon, WI
Sarah Jones, Jennings, MO

Second-place winners are:

April Shelton, Whitvey, TX
Joshua Mason, Los Angeles, CA
James Livingston, Columbus, GA
Harry Geller, New York, NY
Kelley Halstead, Grayling, MI

RED SCARE

Dear CONTACT,

On the cover of the June '91 issue there was a picture of a baboon. It looks like he is hurt. Is he? Please explain why he looks that way.

Christy Grigsby
 Shawnee, KS

We've had lots of readers go ape over this photograph, Christy. But don't worry. He's healthy. During mating season, a male gelada baboon's chest turns bright red. It's one way he attracts a mate. That way, a female baboon knows that he's really gone bananas for her!

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PARROT UNIVERSITY

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You are a professor at Parrot University, and your class consists of eight different parrots. You must teach each one a word or short phrase. Sometimes the parrot gets it on the first try, but sometimes you have to repeat the word several times before the parrot gets it.

Once you've taught all eight of your feathered students, you must teach *eight* more! Now you have eight new parrots that say the same things as the first eight. Can you pair the parrots who talk alike?

This game is written for the IBM and compatibles. To use it on Apple II machines, change all CLS statements to HOME and delete line 20 RANDOMIZE TIMER.

```

10 REM PARROT U
20 RANDOMIZE TIMER
30 DIM D(20)
40 CLS
50 INPUT "WHAT'S YOUR NAME" :YS
60 FOR X=1 TO 8
70 READ AS:PS(X)=AS:NEXT X
80 FOR X=1 TO 4
90 READ AS:NS(X)=AS:NEXT X
100 REM TEACH PARROTS
110 CLS
120 PRINT "WELCOME TO PARROT
UNIVERSITY"
130 PRINT "PROFESSOR " :YS
140 FOR X=1 TO 8
150 PRINT "PARROT NUMBER
" :X : " IS A " :PS(X)
160 PRINT "WHAT DO YOU WANT

```

```

TO TEACH IT TO SAY?"
170 INPUT SS
180 FOR Z=1 TO 8
190 IF SS<>TS(Z) THEN 220
200 PRINT "SORRY, ALREADY USED"
210 GOTO 150
220 NEXT Z
230 P=INT(RND(1)*3)+1
240 IF P=1 THEN 290
250 CLS:N=INT(RND(1)*4)+1
260 PRINT "PARROT NUMBER " :X :
SAYS, " :NS(N)
270 PRINT "TRY AGAIN,
PROFESSOR " :YS
280 GOTO 150
290 CLS
300 PRINT "PARROT NUMBER " :X :
SAYS, " :SS
310 TS(X)=SS
320 NEXT X
330 CLS
340 FOR X=1 TO 8
350 PRINT "THE " :PS(X) : " SAYS " :TS(X)
360 QS(X)=TS(X)
370 GOSUB 890
380 IF F=1 THEN 370
390 T(X)=R
400 GOSUB 890
410 IF F=1 THEN 400
420 Q(X)=R
430 NEXT X
440 INPUT "HIT RETURN TO
CONTINUE" :XS
450 FOR X=1 TO 16:D(X)=1:NEXT X
460 CLS
470 PRINT "NOW EACH
PARROT WILL TEACH A NEW
PARROT HIS PHRASE"
480 PRINT "CAN YOU FIND THE
MATCHING PARROTS?"
490 FOR X=1 TO 16
500 IF D(X)=0 THEN PRINT " :GOTO
520
510 PRINT X
520 NEXT X
530 PRINT:INPUT "PICK A

```

```

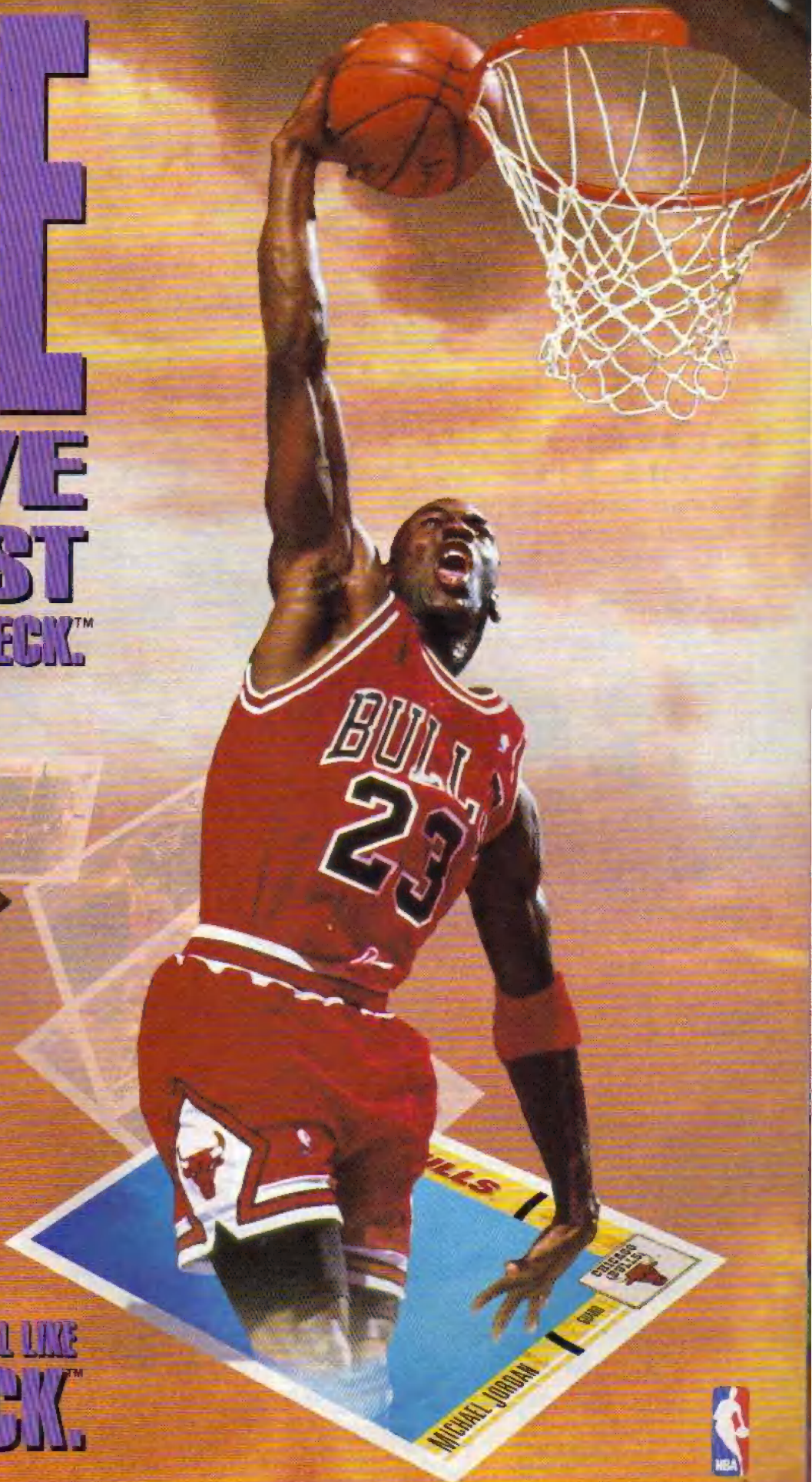
PARROT" :AS
540 A=VAL(AS):IF A<1 OR A>16
THEN 530
550 IF D(A)=0 THEN 530
560 GOSUB 960
570 CS=B$:C=A
580 CLS
590 FOR X=1 TO 16
600 IF X=C THEN PRINT X : " :CS
:GOTO 630
610 IF D(X)=0 THEN PRINT " :
GOTO 630
620 PRINT X
630 NEXT X
640 PRINT:INPUT "PICK ANOTHER
PARROT" :AS
650 A=VAL(AS):IF A<1 OR A>16
THEN 640
660 IF D(A)=0 THEN 640
670 GOSUB 960
680 CLS:B=A
690 FOR X=1 TO 16
700 IF D(X)=0 THEN PRINT " :
GOTO 740
710 IF X=B THEN PRINT X : "
:B$:GOTO 740
720 IF X=C THEN PRINT X : "
:CS:GOTO 740
730 PRINT X
740 NEXT X
750 IF B$=CS THEN PRINT:PRINT
"A MATCH!" :D(B)=0:D(C)=0
760 FOR X=1 TO 16:IF D(X)<>0
THEN 790
770 IF X= 16 THEN 820
780 NEXT X
790 FOR DE=1 TO 3000:NEXT DE
800 T=T+1
810 CLS:GOTO 490
820 CLS:PRINT "YOU MATCHED
THE PARROTS"
830 PRINT "IN " :T : "TURNS"
840 END
850 DATA HORNED PARROT,
AFRICAN GREY PARROT, BLUE-
CROWNED HANGING PARROT
860 DATA YELLOW-WINGED
AMAZON, ORANGE-BELLIED
PARROT,BROWN-HEADED
PARROT
870 DATA MACAW,COCKATOO
880 DATA SWQUACK!, FRACK!,
CREECHI!, SKREET!
890 R=INT(RND(1)*16)+1
900 F=0
910 FOR Z=1 TO 8
920 IF R=Q(Z) THEN F=1
930 IF R=T(Z) THEN F=1
940 NEXT Z
950 RETURN
960 FOR X=1 TO 8
970 IF T(X)=A THEN B$=TS(X)
980 IF Q(X)=A THEN B$=QS(X)
990 NEXT X
1000 RETURN

```


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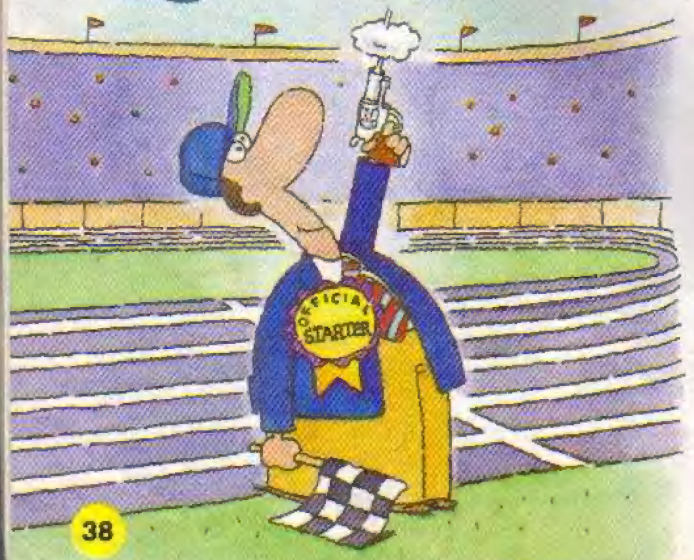
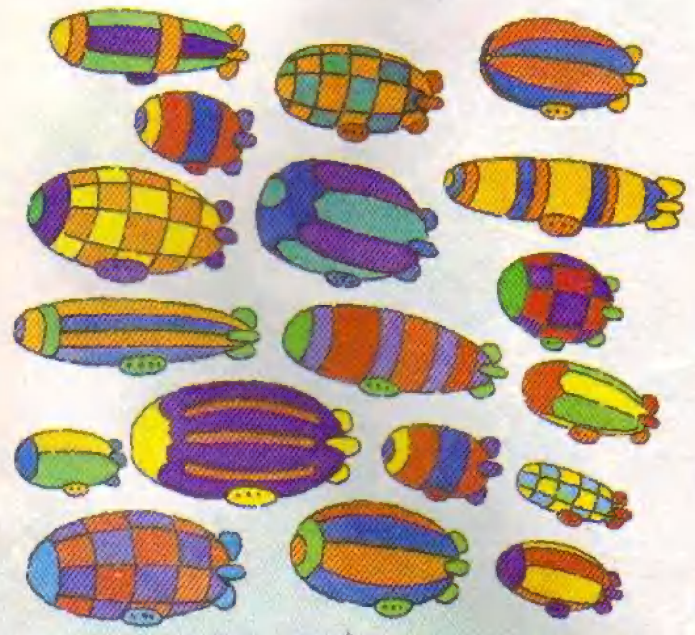


By Russell Ginns

THERE'S A PAIR IN THE AIR

It's time for the first annual International O-blimp-ic Games. But look carefully! Someone sneaky has signed up his blimp more than once! Can you spot the two identical airships before the games begin?

Float to the Did It page for the answer.



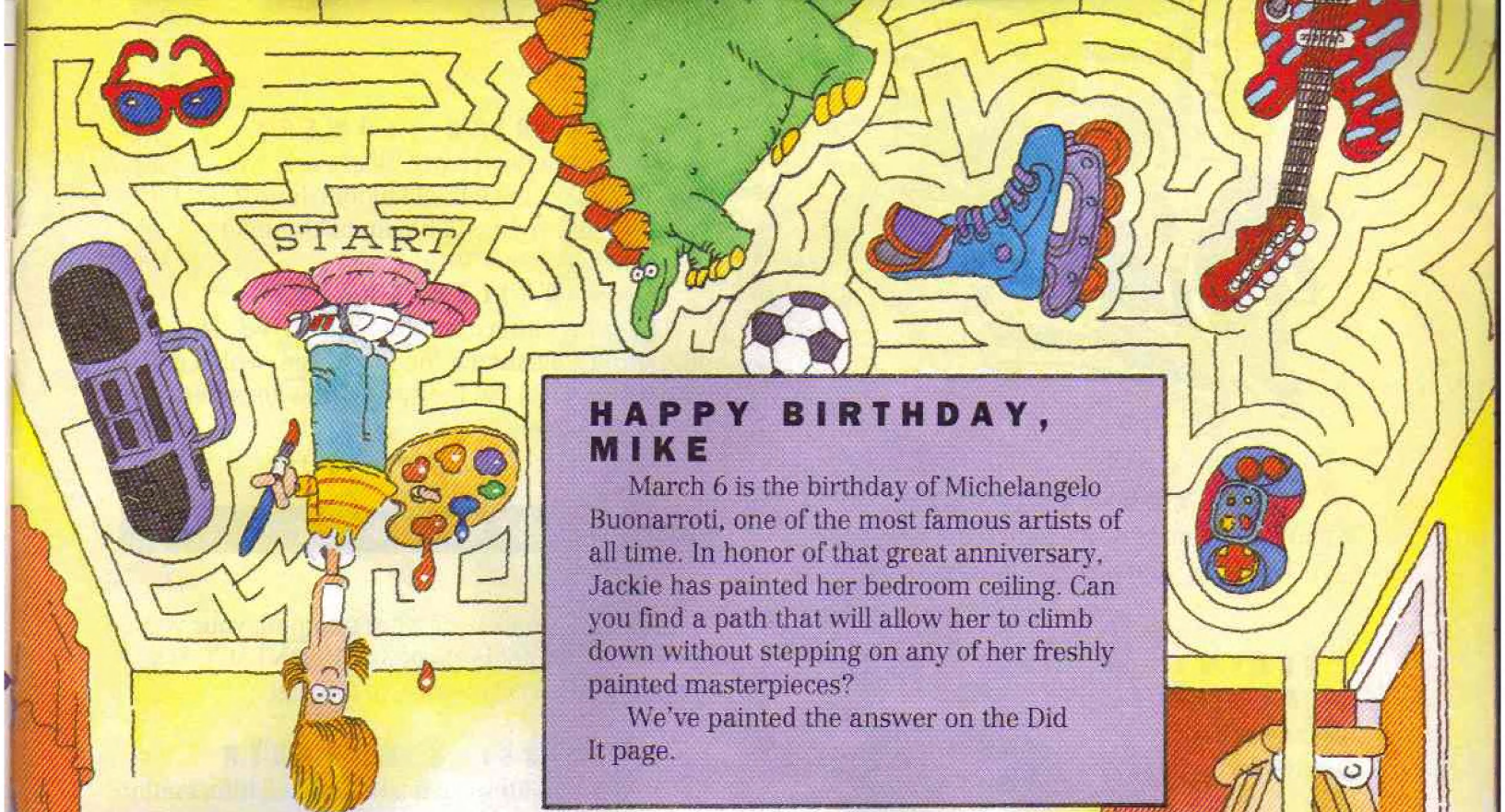
SQUAWK!

These birds seem to be making just a lot of noise. But if you solve this puzzle, you'll discover that the highly intelligent creatures are actually creating a secret message!

To figure out the message, draw a straight line in the direction of the arrow under each parrot. The *leftover* letters will reveal what the birds are saying.

Answer on the Did It page.

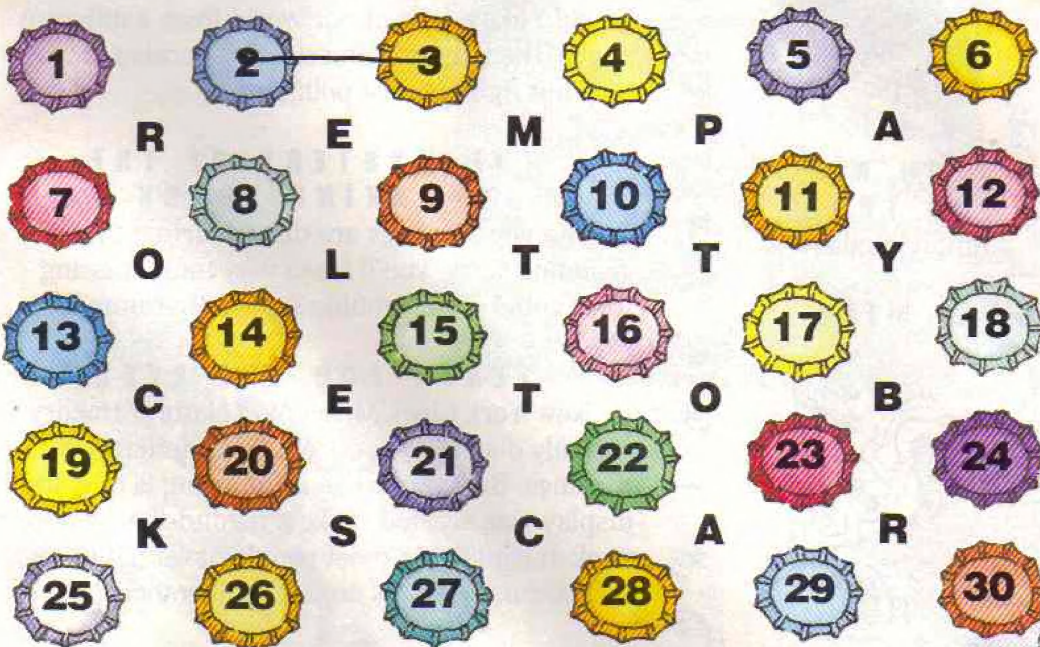




HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MIKE

March 6 is the birthday of Michelangelo Buonarroti, one of the most famous artists of all time. In honor of that great anniversary, Jackie has painted her bedroom ceiling. Can you find a path that will allow her to climb down without stepping on any of her freshly painted masterpieces?

We've painted the answer on the Did It page.



FINISH

YOU'RE THE TOPS

Mr. Marinara is very proud of his bottle cap collection. He's numbered them and arranged them in a special way, so you can solve this puzzle and find another group of objects he collects..

First, draw lines to connect every pair of bottle caps listed in the box on the right. Then, read the letters inside the trail that you've just drawn. They'll tell you the other objects that Mr. Marinara has collected. To give you a head start, we connected the first two pairs for you.

Answer on the Did It page.

2-3	11-12	18-24
3-4	8-14	21-22
4-5	10-16	22-23
2-8	12-18	23-24
5-11	16-17	20-26
8-9	14-20	21-27
9-10	15-21	26-27

Did it

OPEN AND SHUT CASE

When the left door was opened, the people saw an "alarming" message on the right door.

SCREWY STAKE OUT

Benny is hiding
at intersection #5.

BOING!

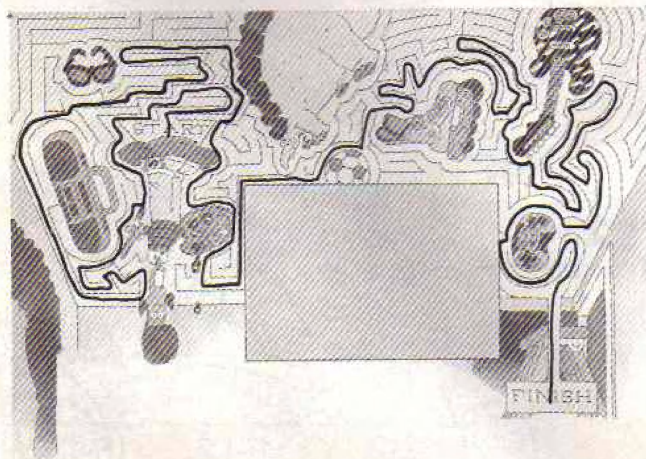


SQUAWK!

More bird seed now

**YOU'RE
THE TOPS**
Empty bottles

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MIKE



THERE'S A PAIR IN THE AIR



SPRING FLOWERS

The middle flower will bloom first—on June 1. (The flower on the left will bloom June 2, and the flower on the right will bloom on June 3.)

COILED AGAIN!

The color pattern is: blue, green, *red*. The final three coils match the first three, which end with a *small* coil. So the spring that goes next is the small red one.

NEXT MONTH

Here's a preview of what's coming your way in the April 1992 issue of 3-2-1 CONTACT. It's going to be a great issue. No fooling!

MISSION TO EARTH

NASA satellites are beaming back information from space about a "new" planet. The planet is... Earth! Take a look at our world from a different angle. The information scientists receive may help our fight against pollution.

THE MYSTERY OF THE CROAKING FROGS

The world's frogs are disappearing! In this ribbeting story, you'll learn why these missing frogs could mean trouble for the environment.

FEAST FOR THE EYES

New York City's Museum of Natural History recently displayed some amazing Indian wood-carvings. But what's just as amazing is how the display was created. Take a behind-the-scenes peek at something most people never get to see: how a museum puts an exhibit together.

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